GOBLIN SLAYER
7
ART:
KOUSUKE KUROSE
ORIGINAL STORY:
KUMO KAGYU
CHARACTER DESIGN:
NOBORU KANNATUKI
PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

GORIL

Art: Kousuke Kurose
Original Story: Kumo Kagyu
Character Design: Noboru Kannatuki

7

SSER

He does not forget anyone

GOBLIN SLAYER

Volume 7

CONTENTS

Chapter 31.....003

Chapter 32.....031

Chapter 33.....061

Chapter 34.....097

Chapter 35.....125

Interlude:
Of Them Meeting to Talk
Together.....177

DID YOU COME TO MEET ME?

OF COURSE ...

...IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT...

...I HAD SOME BUSINESS IN TOWN.

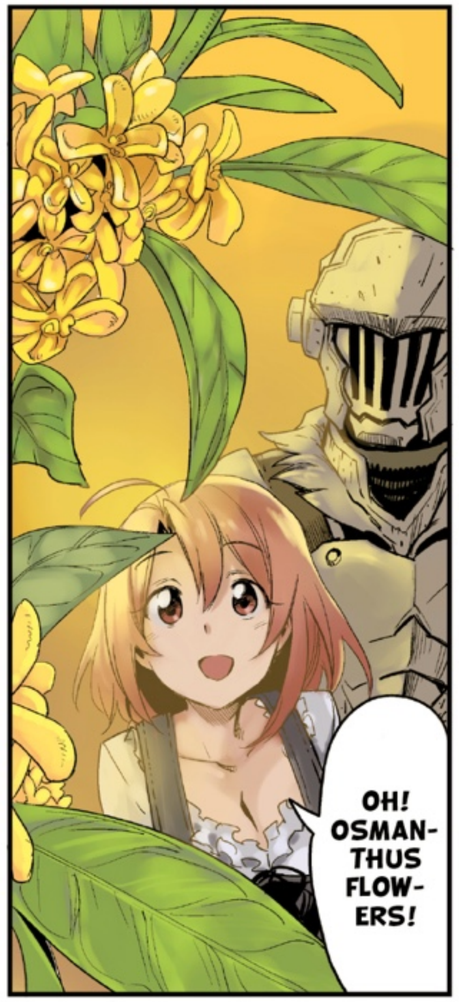
HEADING HOME?

OH, THERE YOU ARE!

SHALL WE GO HOME?

YES. LET'S GO HOME.

CHAPTER 31


OH! OSMANTHUS FLOWERS!

YO
PIRA (FWIP)

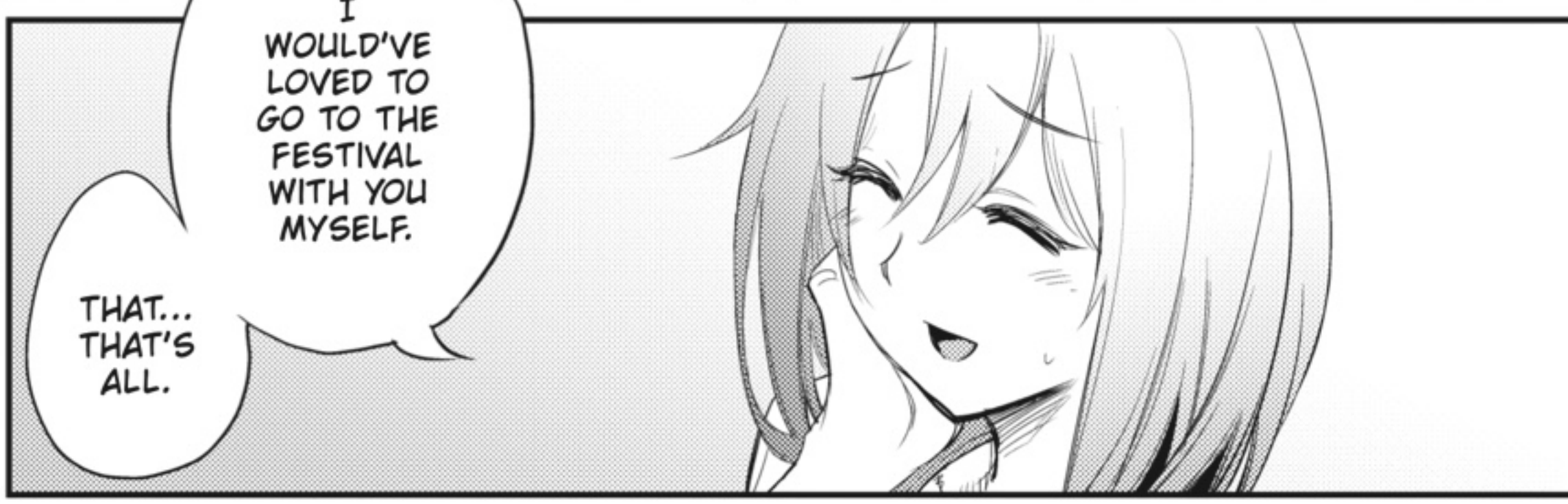
THEY'RE IN BLOOM ...
I GUESS IT'S THAT SEASON ALREADY.

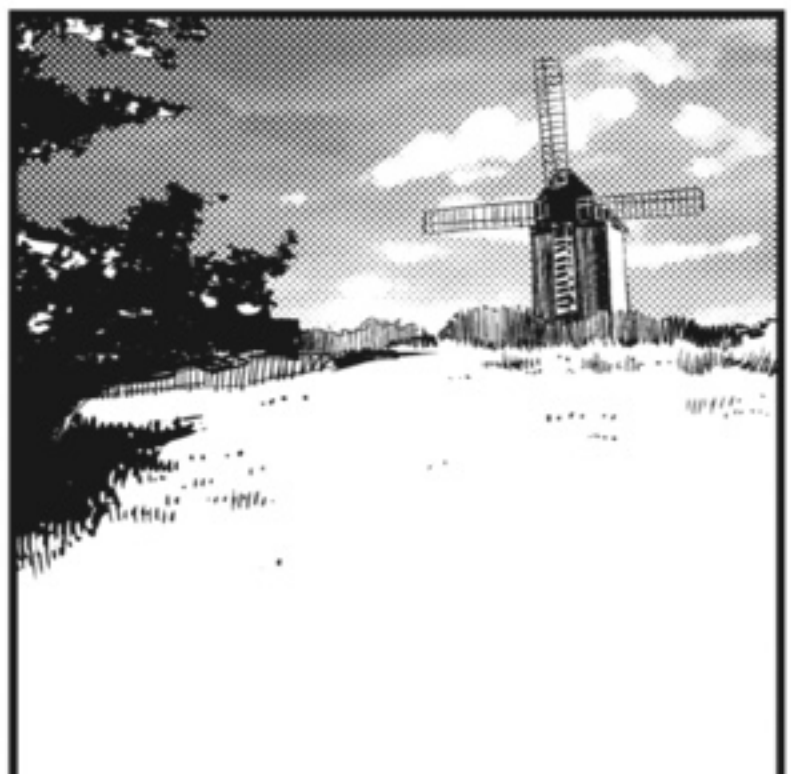
IT'S TOO DARK TO BE LOOKING UP ALL THE TIME.
YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD WHEN YOU'RE WALKING.
C'MON.
NO. I DON'T.
I KIND OF THINK IT'S PERFECT FOR YOU, ACTUALLY.
LOOK IT UP SOMETIME.
HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT "OSMANTHUS" MEANS IN FLOWER LANGUAGE?
SO IT IS.
THE FESTIVAL'S THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW ALREADY.
...
I WILL DO THAT.

GUH !?

I HAVE A DATE.

WHAT'S WRONG?





YEAH.

IS THAT SO?

HUH. OKAY.

AT NOON.

WHEN ARE YOU... SUPPOSED TO MEET HER?

HEY...

FORGET IT. I'M SURE IT'S—

VERY WELL.

UH...

WELL ...

WHOO-HOO!!

IT'S OKAY?
WH— REALLY?
IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF OKAY.

WELL, BUT—
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT BY YOU?
I DO NOT MIND.

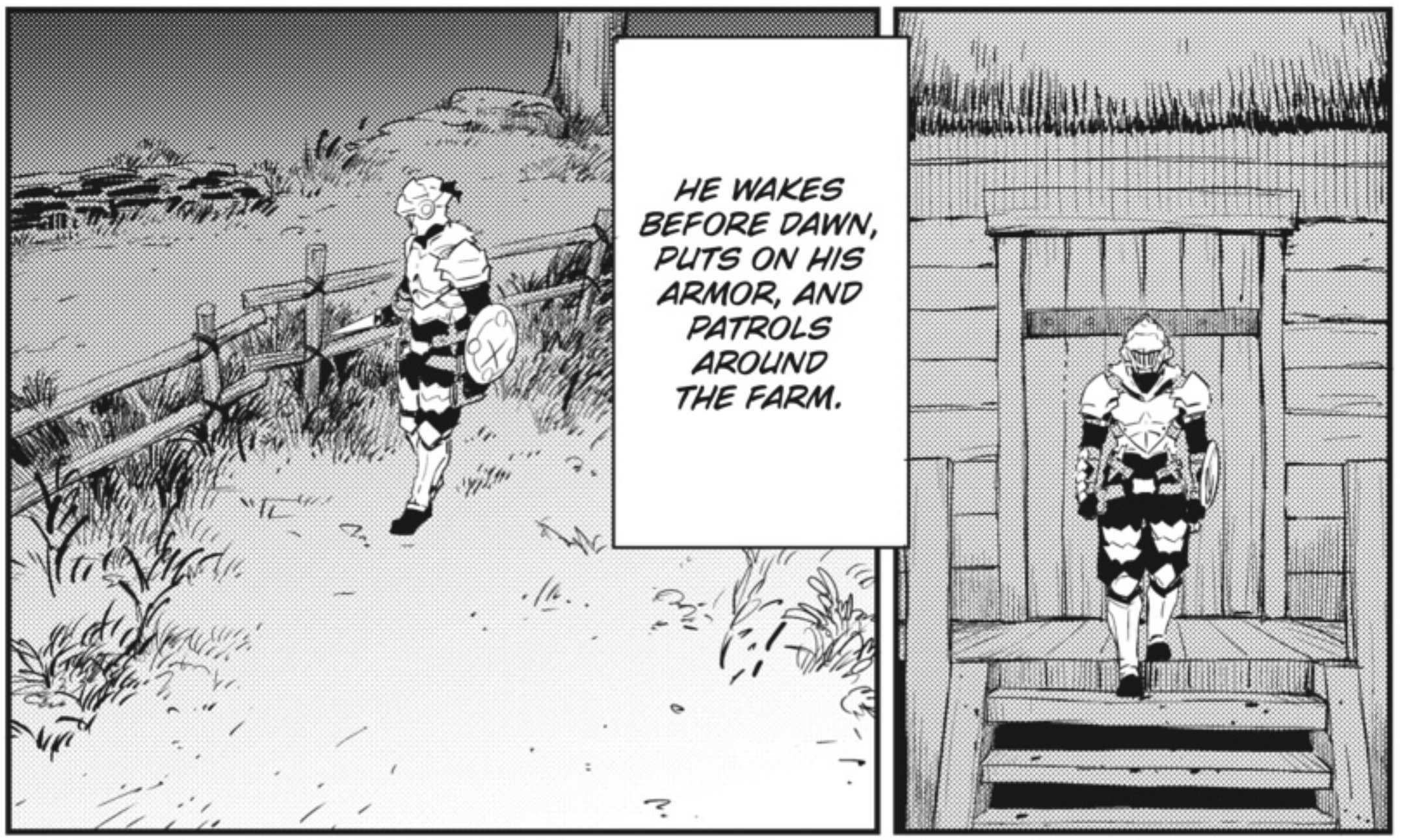
IS THAT SO...?

IT'S BEEN ALMOST TEN YEARS SINCE WE GOT TO GO TO A FESTIVAL TOGETHER!

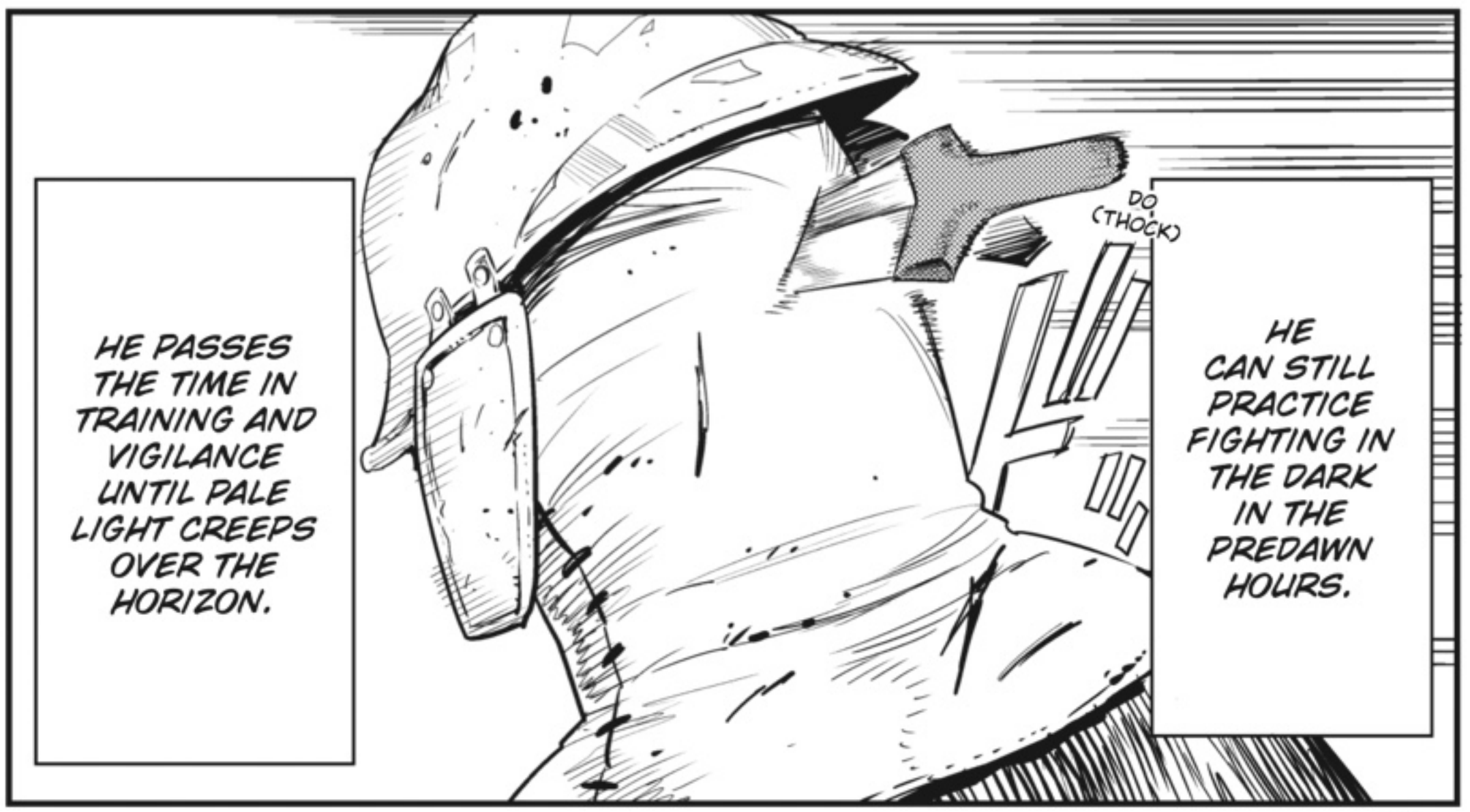
DOES IT MAKE YOU THAT HAPPY?
WELL, SURE!

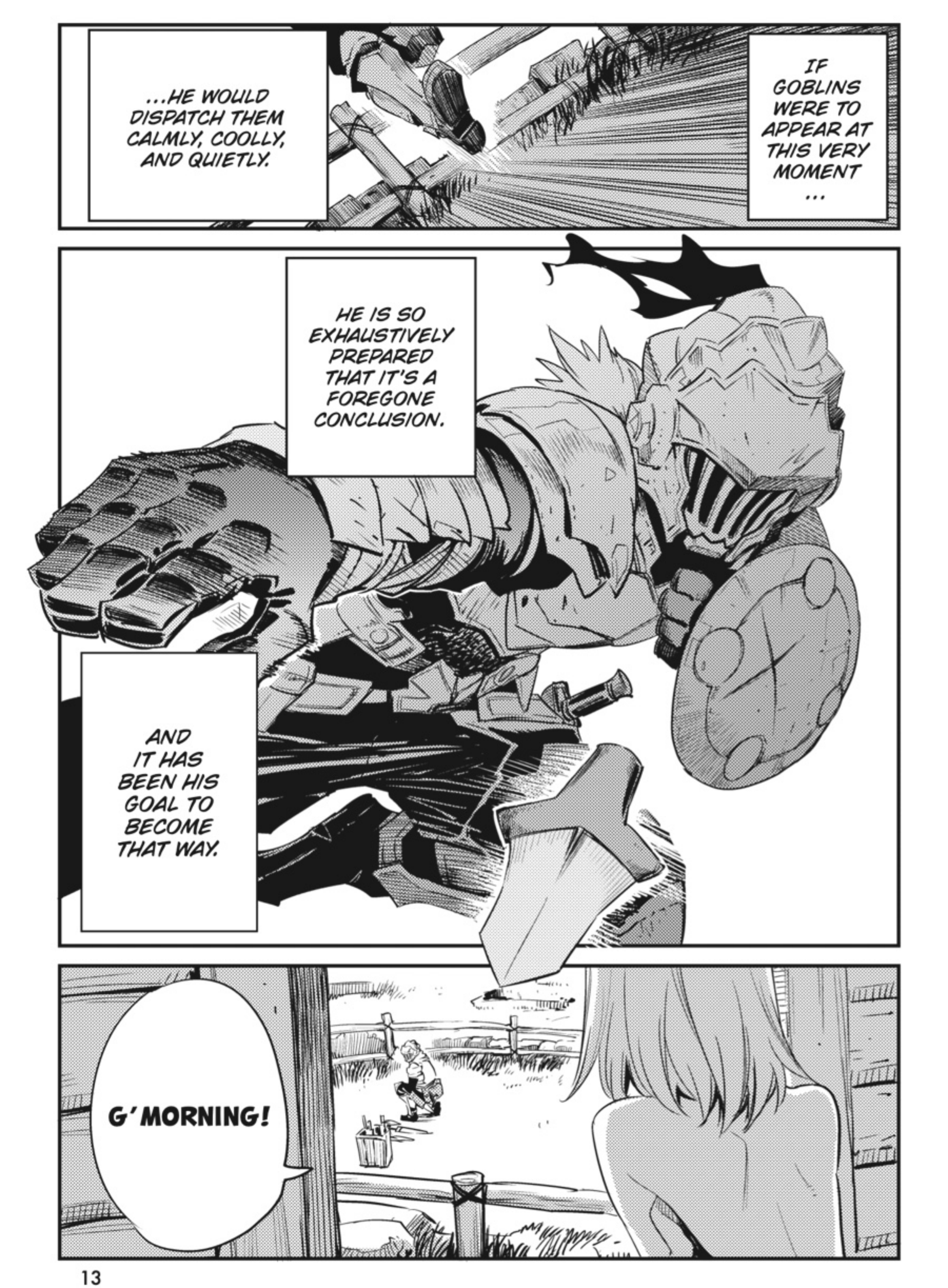
GOBLIN SLAYER'S MORNING STARTS EARLY.

I HADN'T REALIZED.


HE WAKES BEFORE DAWN, PUTS ON HIS ARMOR, AND PATROLS AROUND THE FARM.

...AND FOR GOBLINS.
THE COLD, DARK AUTUMN MORNINGS ARE PERFECT FOR HIM...

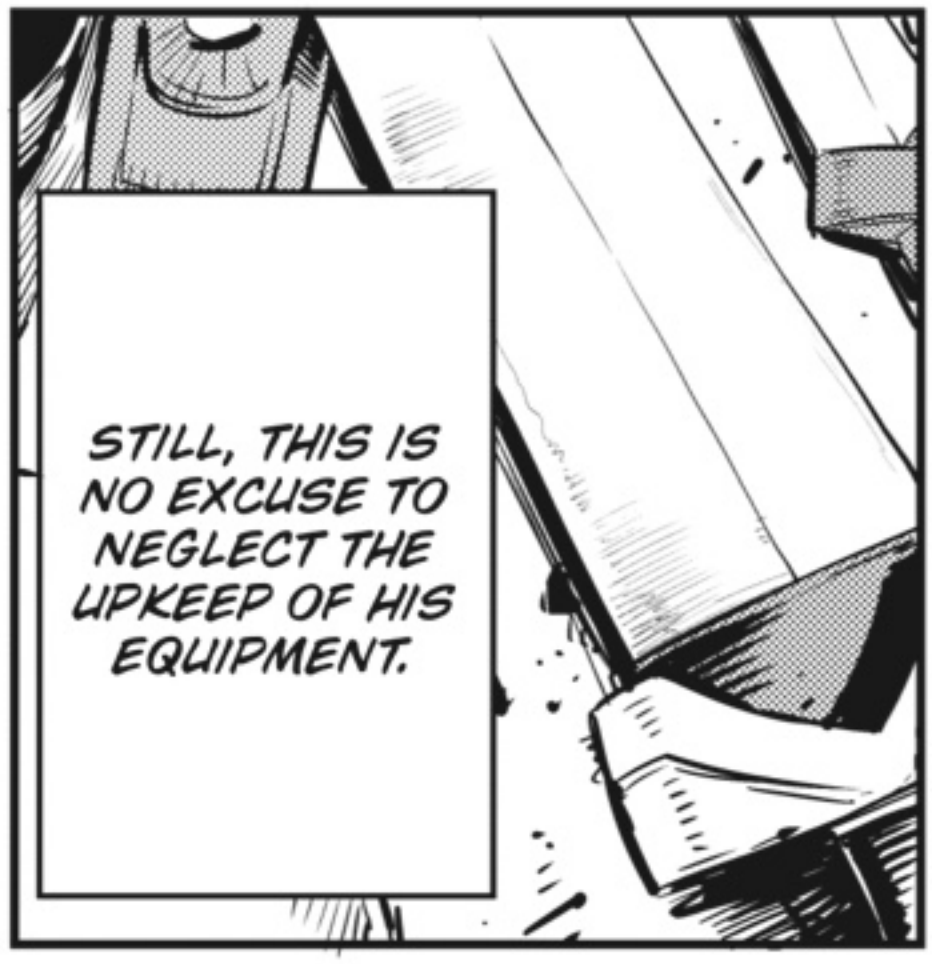

HE PASSES THE TIME IN TRAINING AND VIGILANCE UNTIL PALE LIGHT CREEPS OVER THE HORIZON.
DO (THOCK)
HE CAN STILL PRACTICE FIGHTING IN THE DARK IN THE PREDAWN HOURS.

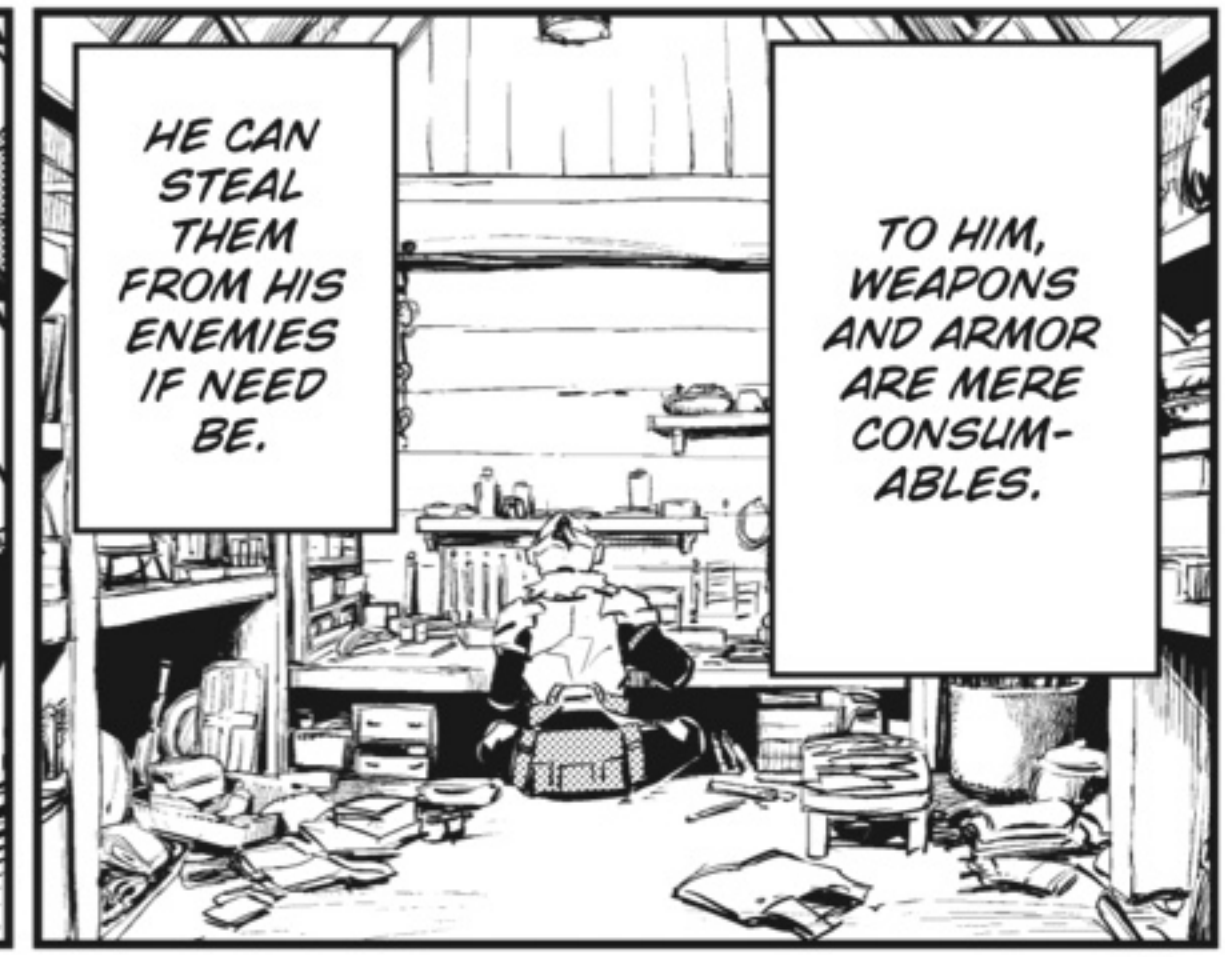

...HE WOULD DISPATCH THEM CALMLY, COOLLY, AND QUIETLY.
IF GOBLINS WERE TO APPEAR AT THIS VERY MOMENT ...
HE IS SO EXHAUSTIVELY PREPARED THAT IT'S A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.
AND IT HAS BEEN HIS GOAL TO BECOME THAT WAY.
G'MORNING!

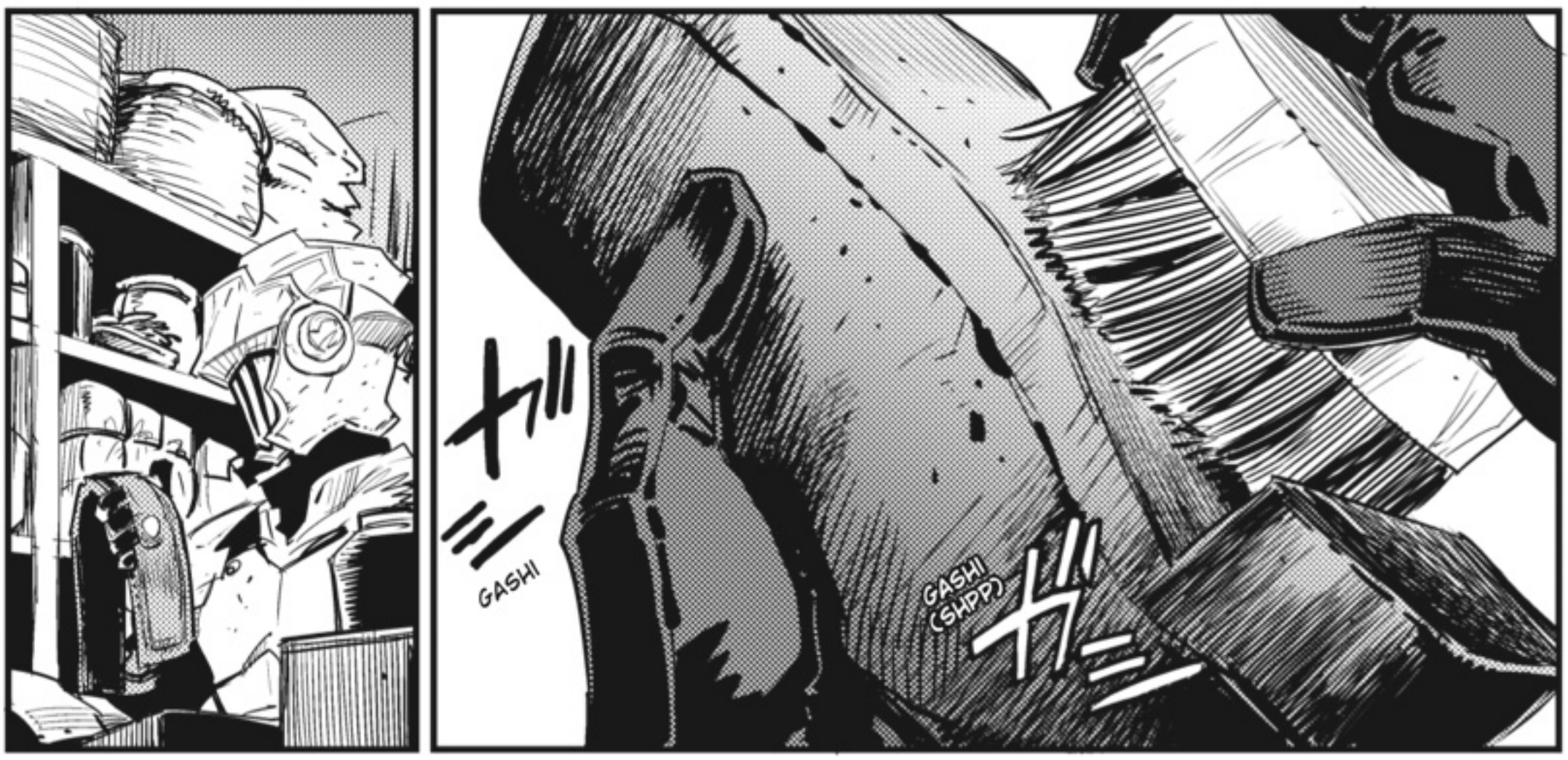
YOU WILL CATCH COLD.

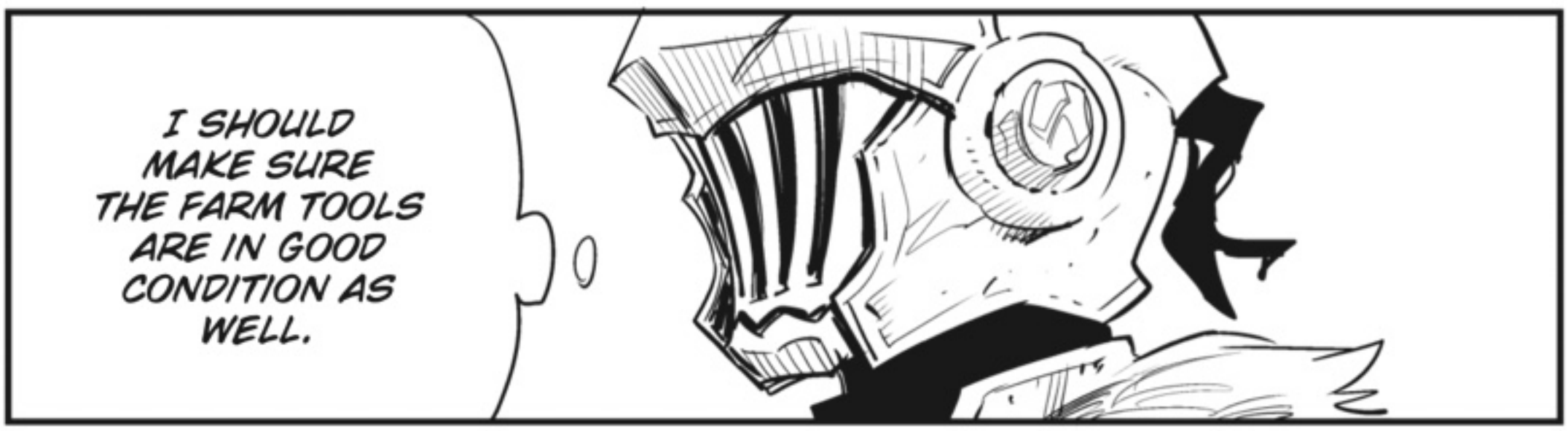
CHILLY ONE TODAY, HUH?

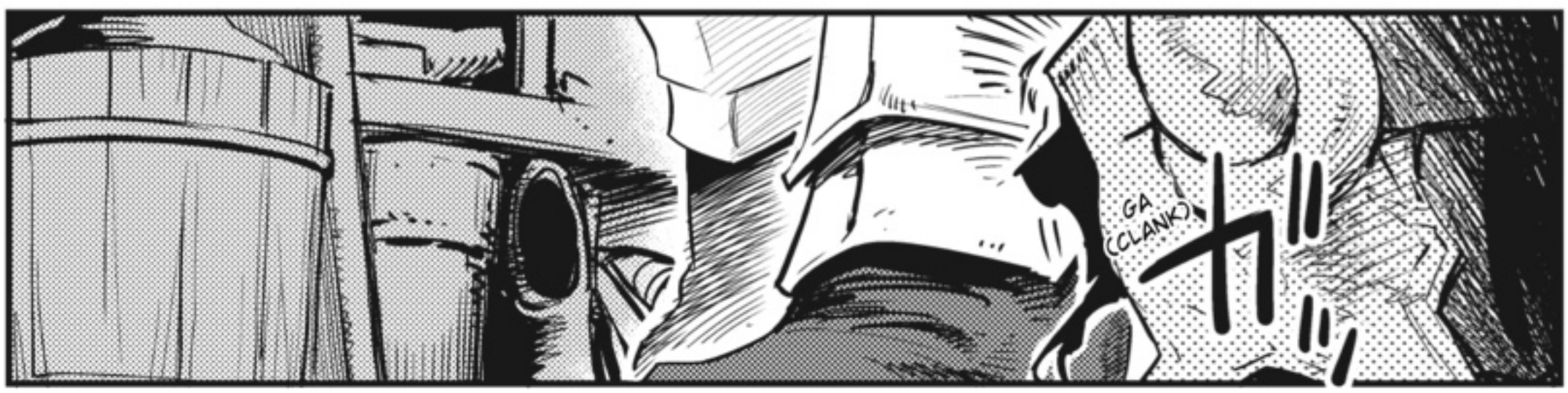
ONE SWORD, THEY SAY, CAN CUT DOWN NO MORE THAN FIVE FOES BEFORE GROWING BLUNT WITH BLOOD AND FAT.
SHA (SHHK)
SHA


STILL, THIS IS NO EXCUSE TO NEGLECT THE UPKEEP OF HIS EQUIPMENT.


HE CAN STEAL THEM FROM HIS ENEMIES IF NEED BE.
TO HIM, WEAPONS AND ARMOR ARE MERE CONSUM-ABLES.


GASHI
GASHI (SHPP)

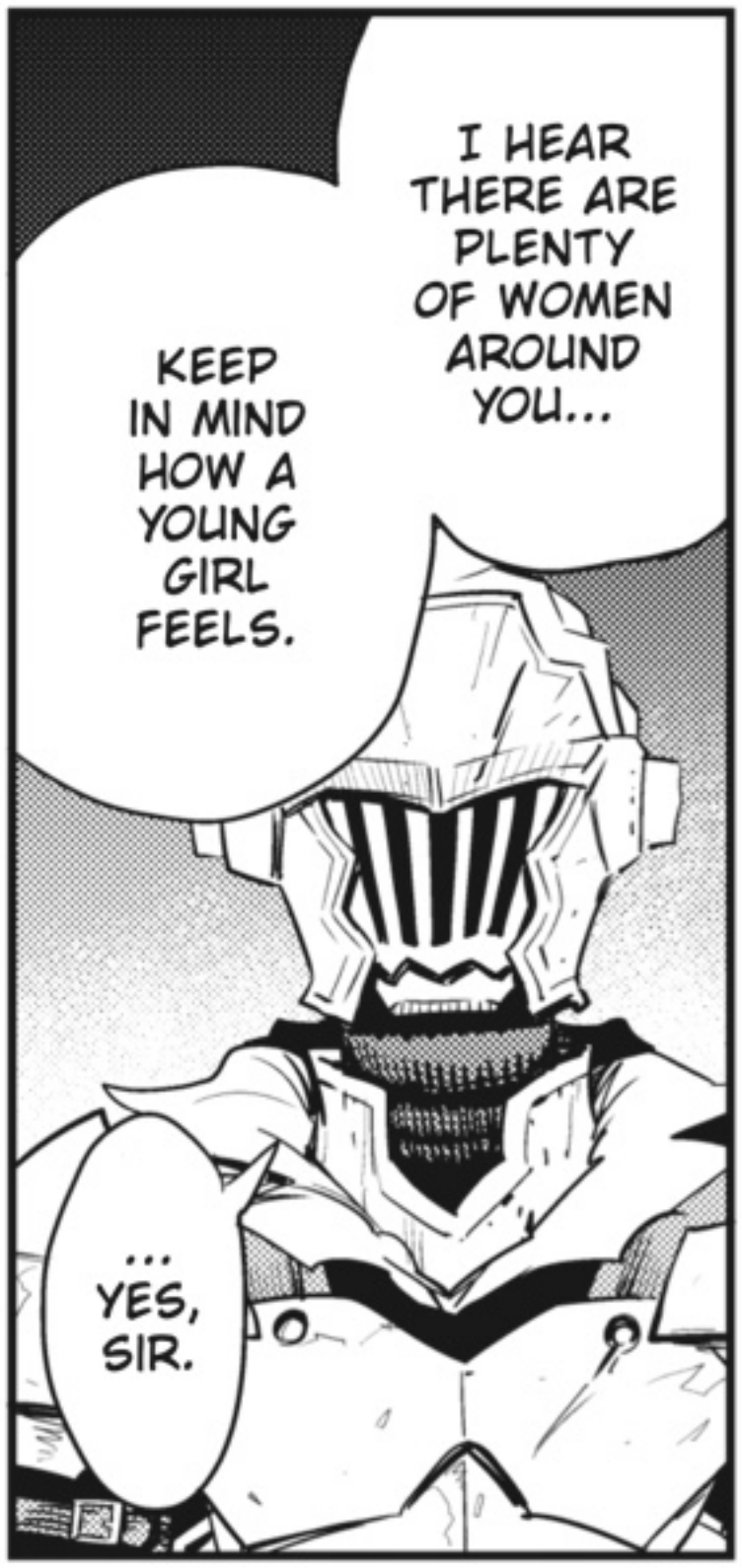

I SHOULD MAKE SURE THE FARM TOOLS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION AS WELL.


GA (CLANK)

GOOD MORNING, SIR.

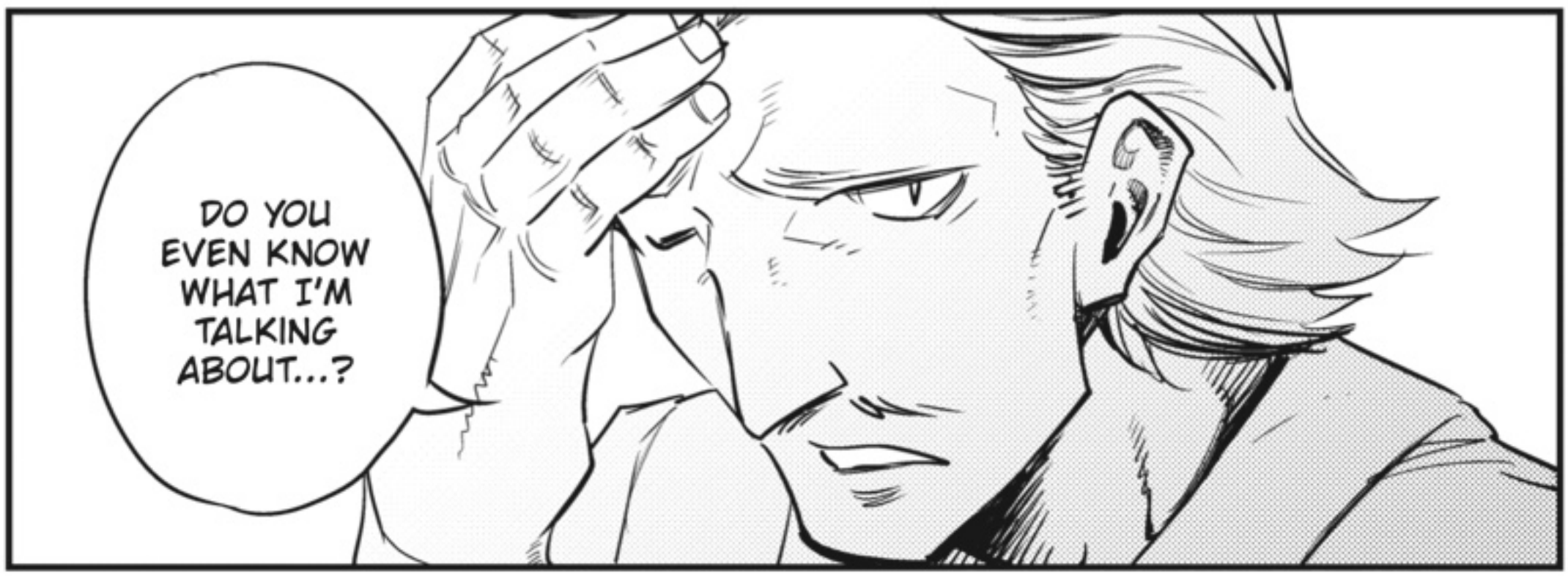
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO FULL OF ENERGY.

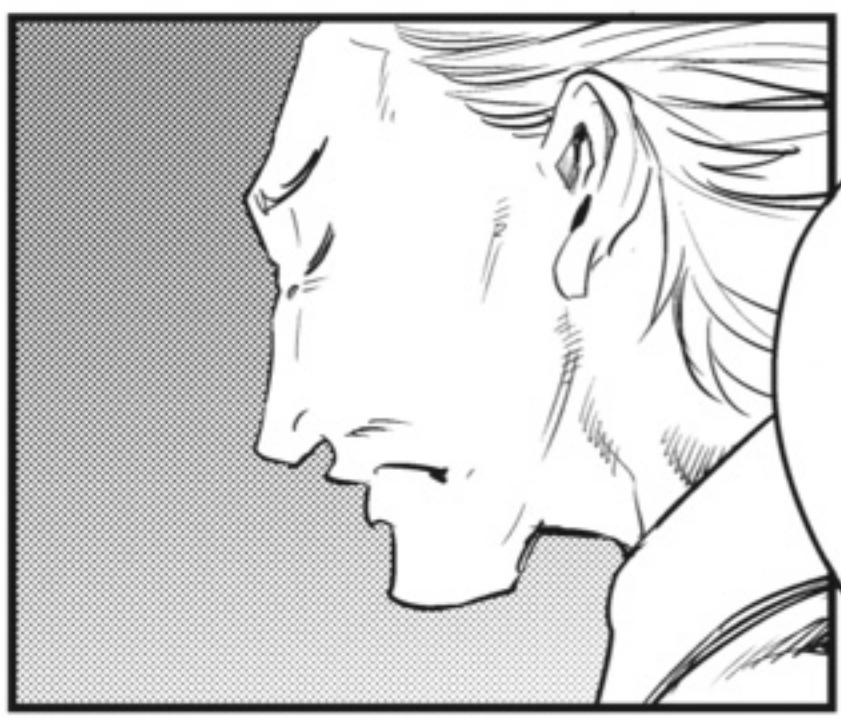
GOTO (TUNK)


I HEAR THERE ARE PLENTY OF WOMEN AROUND YOU...
KEEP IN MIND HOW A YOUNG GIRL FEELS.
... YES, SIR.

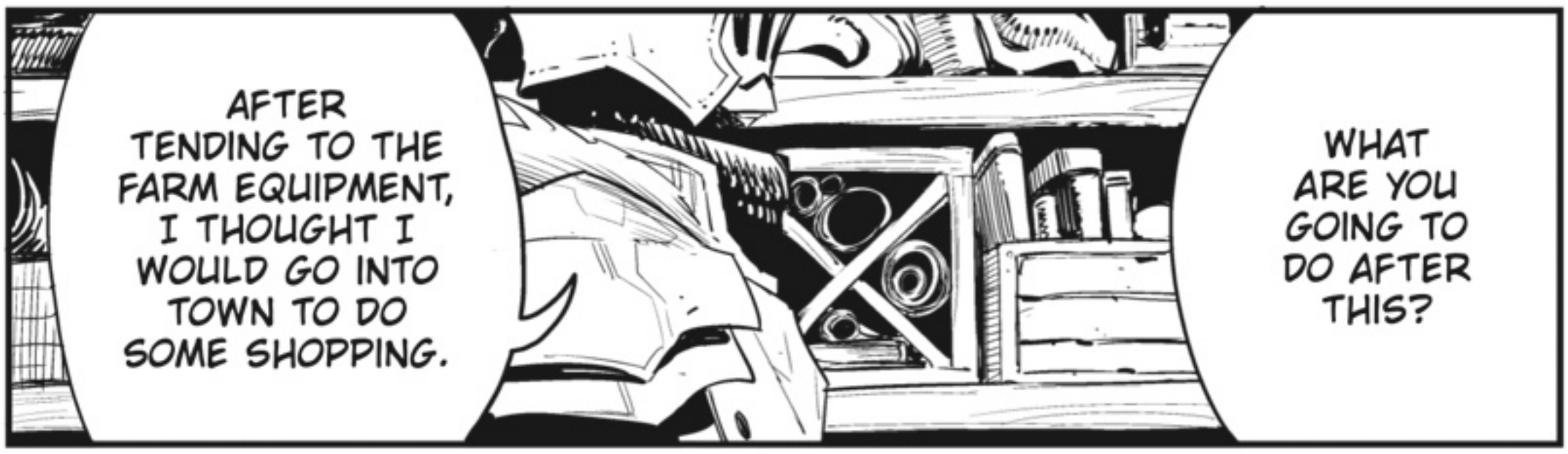
I KNOW YOU DON'T MEAN TO ...
... BUT TRY NOT TO LEAD HER ON, ALL RIGHT?
YES, SIR.

I'M TOLD YOU HAVE A DATE WITH MY NIECE TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL.
YES, SIR.

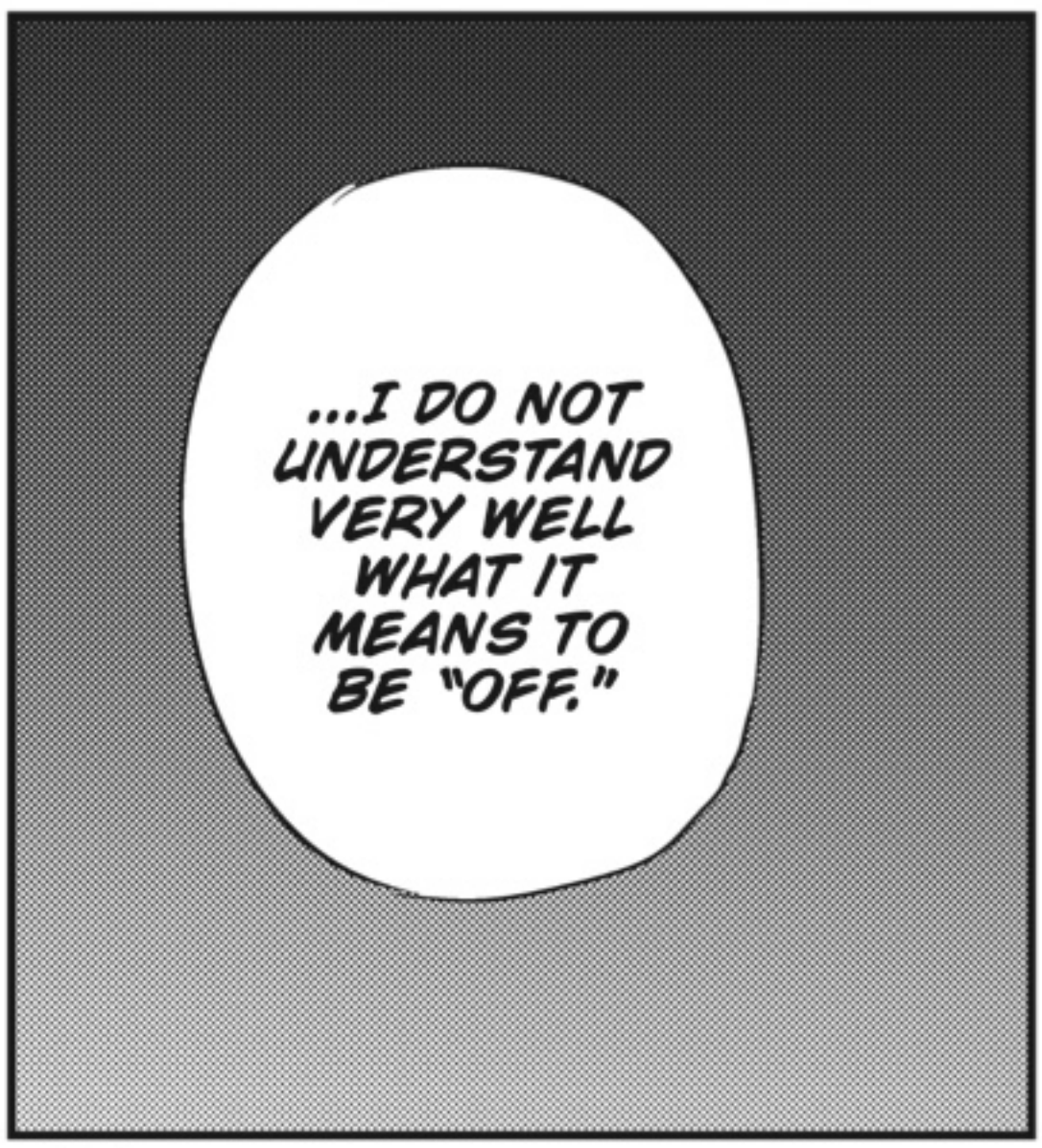

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...?



...THOUGH I AM NOT CERTAIN.
I BELIEVE I DO...

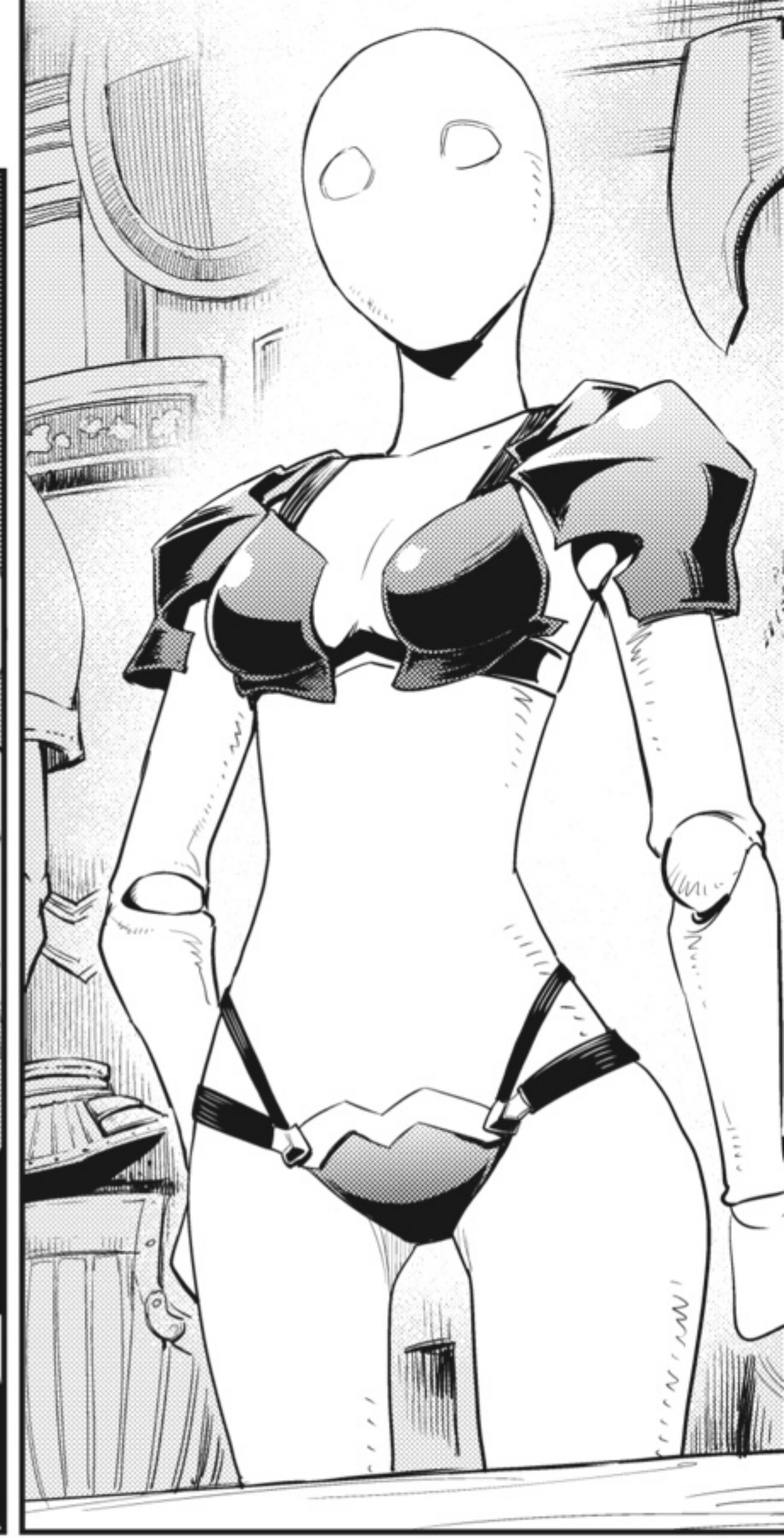

AFTER TENDING TO THE FARM EQUIPMENT, I THOUGHT I WOULD GO INTO TOWN TO DO SOME SHOPPING.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AFTER THIS?

SHE WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE IT FOR YOU.
...WELL, AT LEAST HAVE BREAKFAST FIRST.


...I DO NOT UNDERSTAND VERY WELL WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "OFF."

YES, SIR.
HOW-EVER ...

...TAKE IT EASY, HUH?
YOU'VE GOT A DAY OFF FOR ONCE.



AND THE STEEL IS WELL-TEMPERED.
IT'D BE EASY TO MOVE IN, THAT'S FOR SURE...
LOOKS GOOD TOO...

...
SO IT CAN'T BE TOTALLY IMPRACTICAL.

THEN AGAIN, THE WARRIOR WOMEN OF THE AMAZON SUPPOSEDLY DRESS LIKE THIS...

AND IT WOULD SURE ENCOURAGE YOU NOT TO GET HIT...

FIRST AID WOULD BE EASY TO ADMINISTER.

BUT!!

ONE GOOD HIT TO THE MIDRIFF, AND YOU'RE FINISHED!

BIKINI ARMOR + CHAIN MAIL + DOUBLET

= ADVENTURE SAFE AND STYLISH!

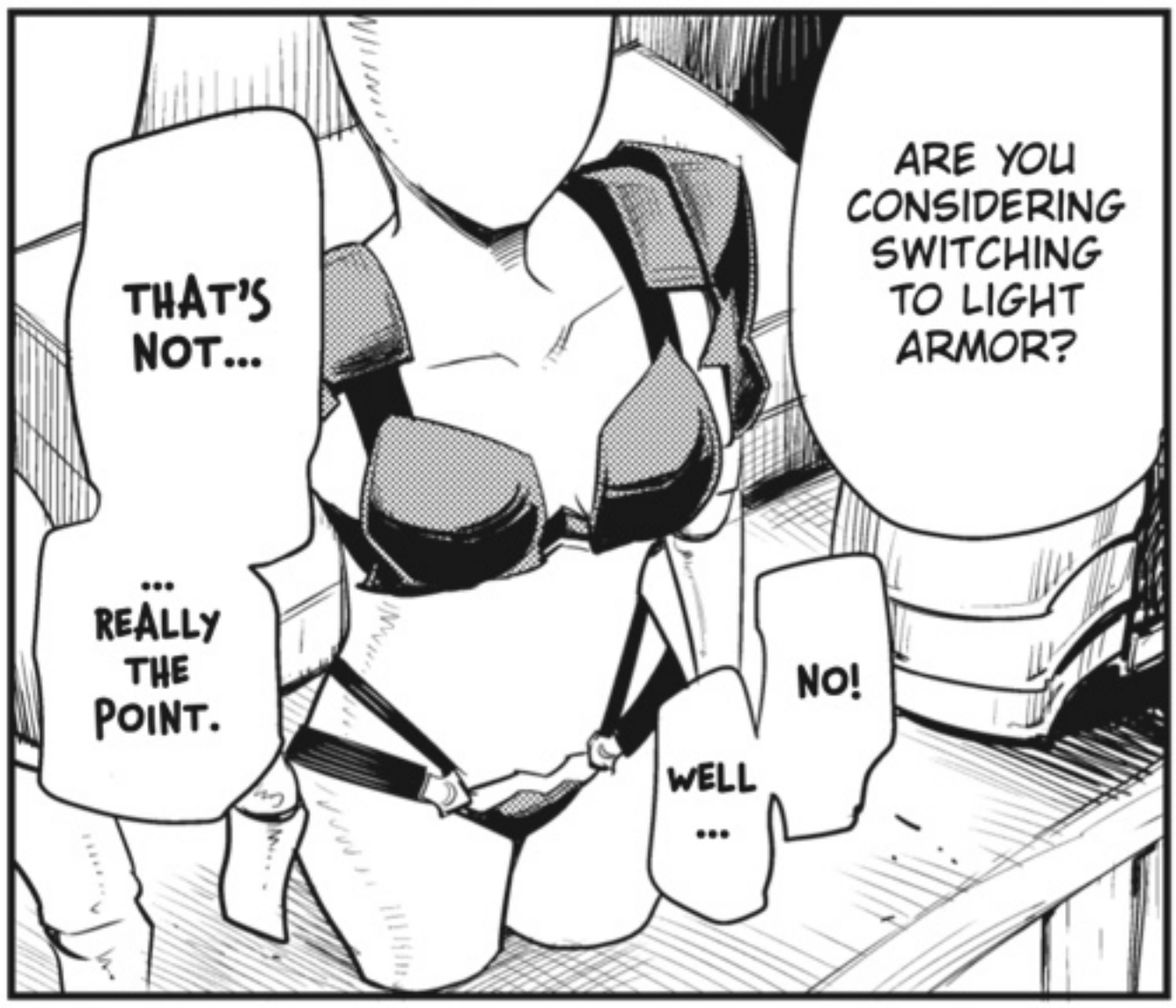
!

I'VE GOT IT! A GOOD SET OF CHAIN MAIL OR A DOUBLET WOULD DO THE TRICK!

IF A GIRL HIDES ALL HER SKIN, HOW IS SHE SUPPOSED TO SHOW OFF HER—

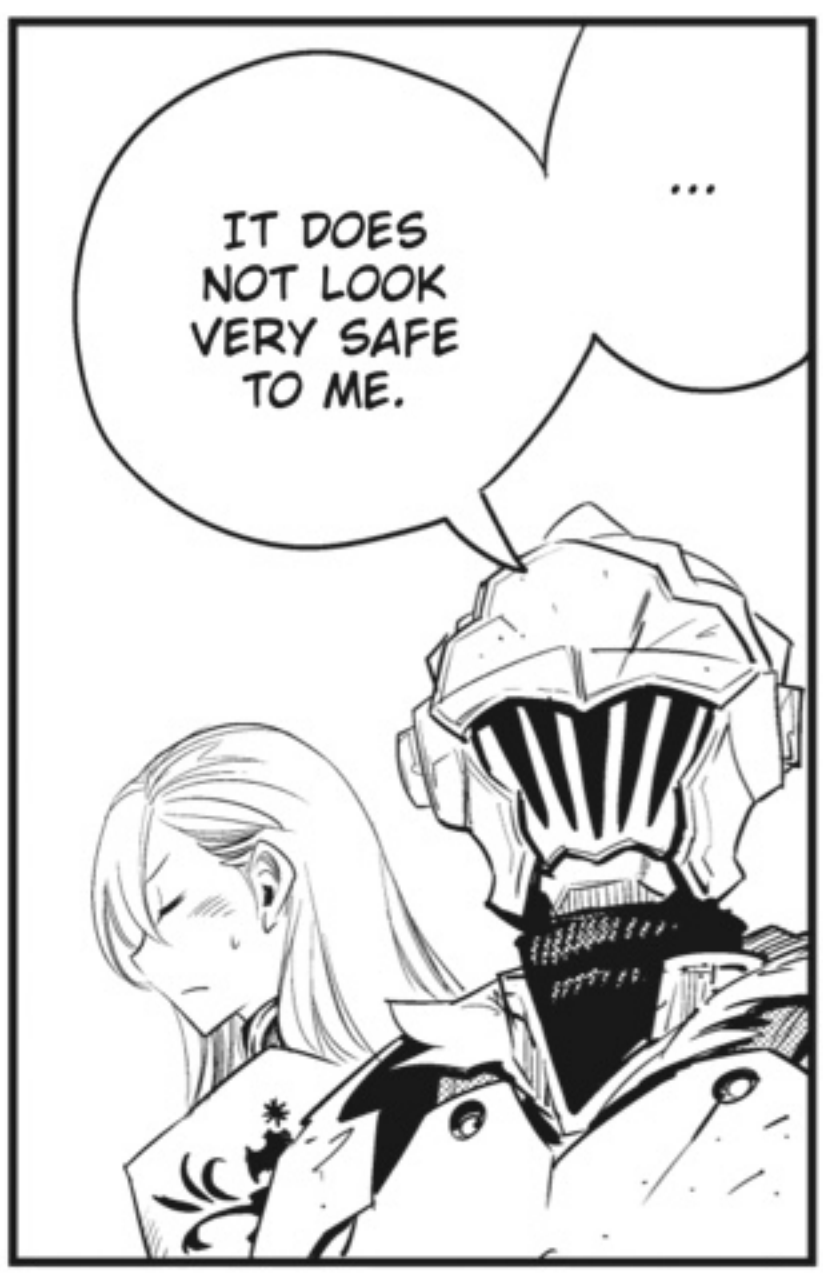
WHAT WOULDN'T?

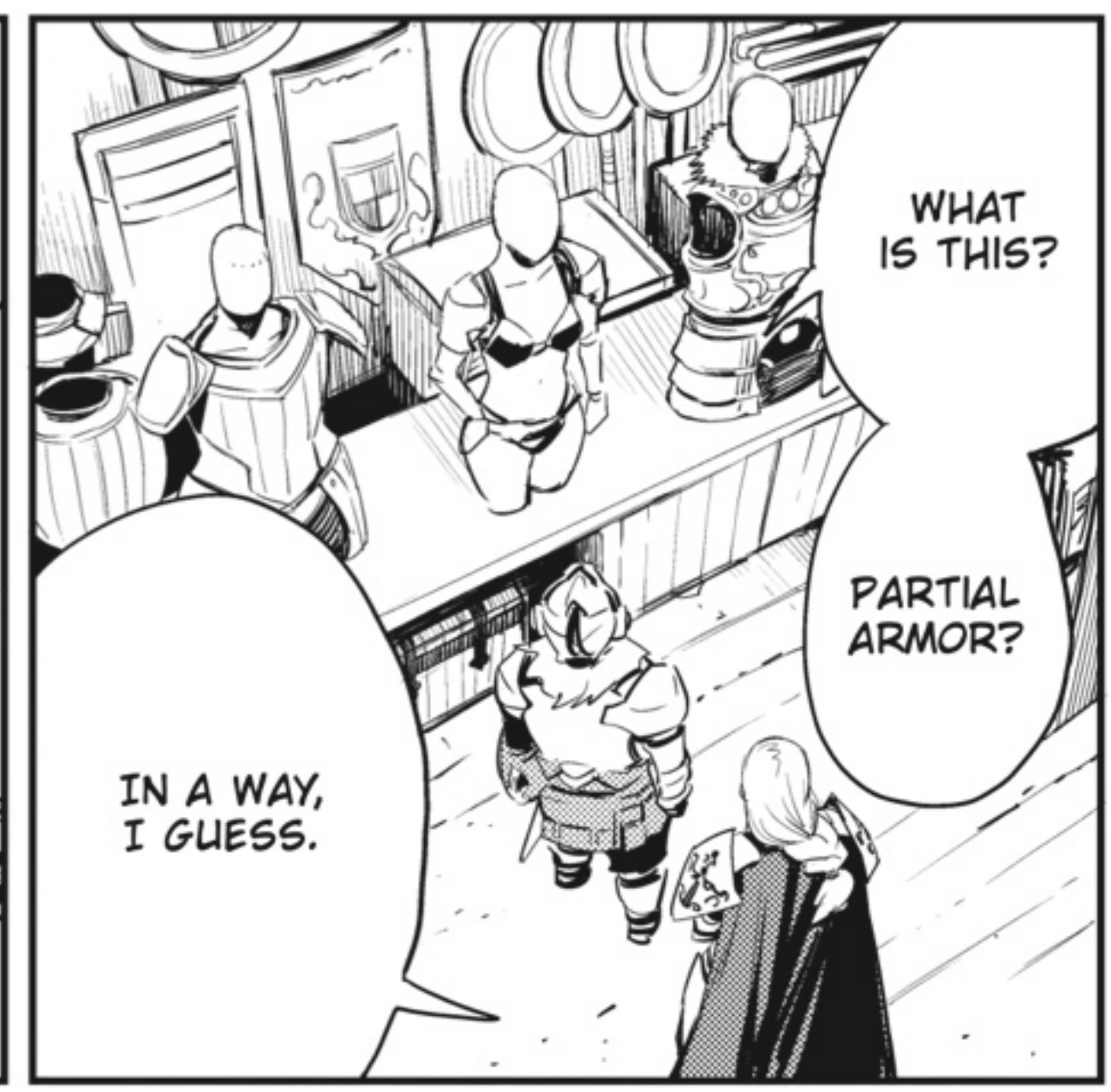
NO, NO, NO, THAT'D NEVER DO.


ARE YOU CONSIDERING SWITCHING TO LIGHT ARMOR?
NO!
WELL ...
THAT'S NOT...
... REALLY THE POINT.

URK!
GOBLIN SLAYER!?
I AM HE.

STAKES, TWO COILS OF ROPE, WIRE, AND WOOD. I ALSO NEED A NEW SHOVEL.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR ANYWAY?


IT DOES NOT LOOK VERY SAFE TO ME.
...


WHAT IS THIS?
PARTIAL ARMOR?
IN A WAY, I GUESS.

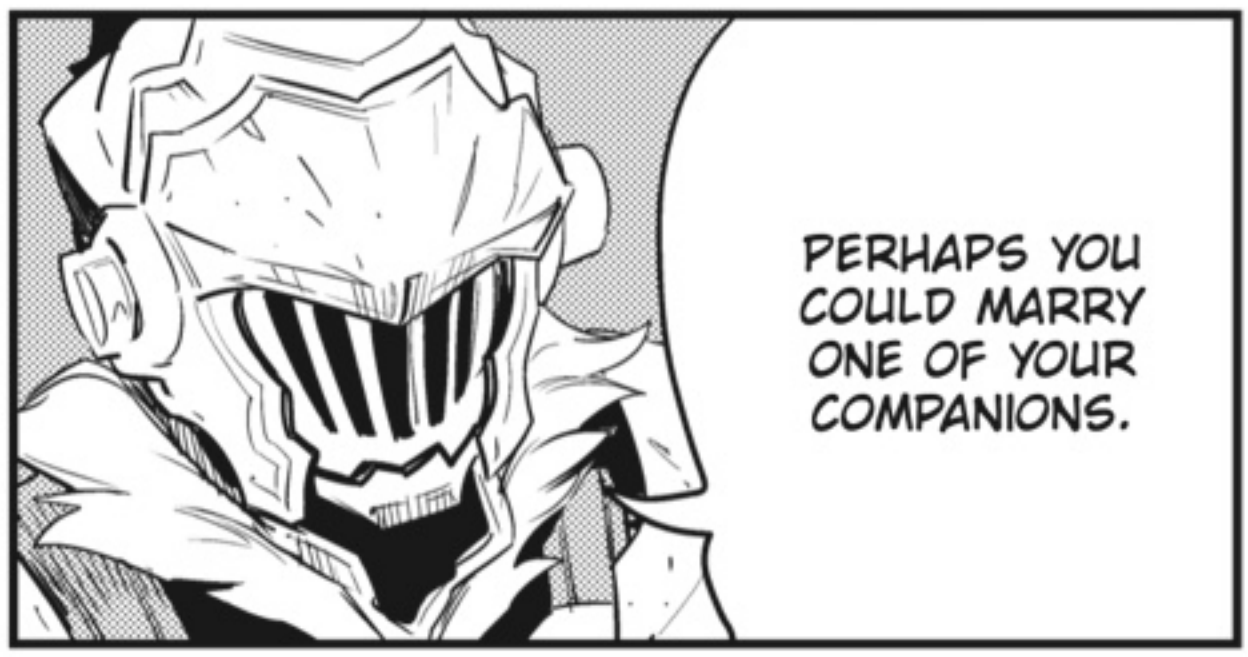
IS THAT SO?

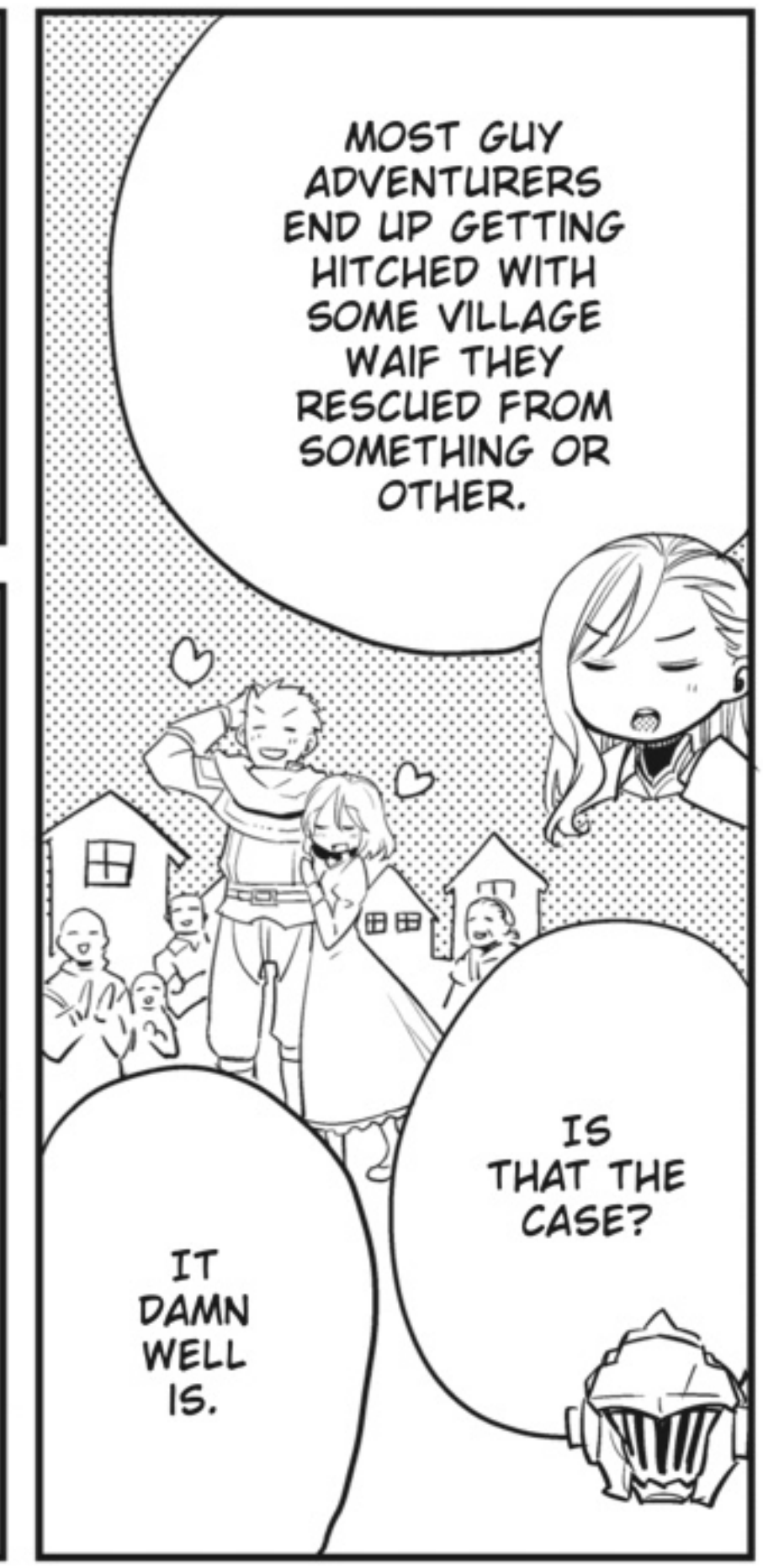
THERE AREN'T A LOT OF... UH...

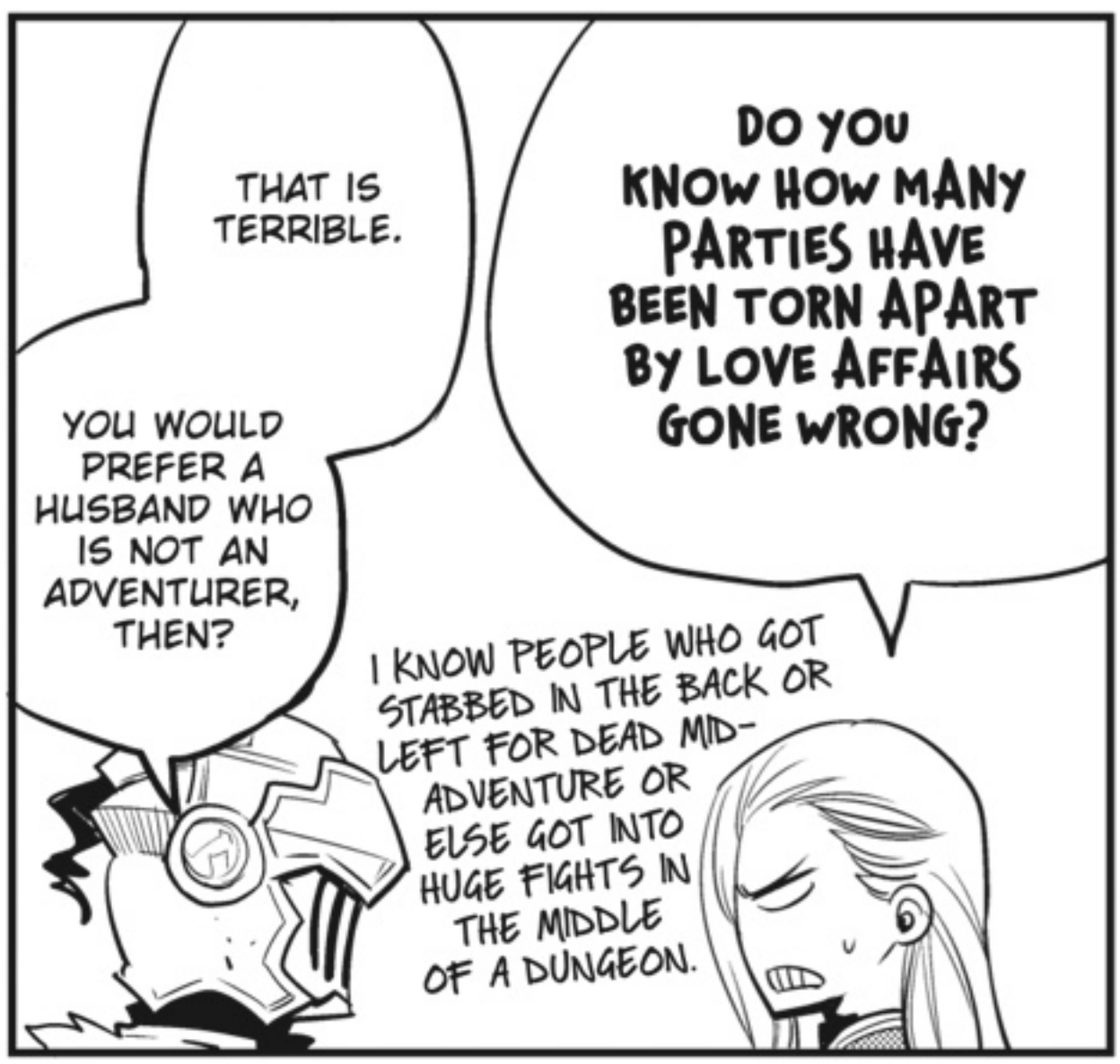
... POTENTIAL HUSBANDS OUT THERE FOR US.

ADVENTURERS... FEMALE ADVENTURERS ...

IT'S... YOU KNOW.







HONESTLY, I'M NOT THAT INTERESTED IN A NON-ADVENTURER ...

...SHOWING A LITTLE VULNERABILITY MIGHT GET HIS ATTENTION.

I WAS JUST THINKING, MAYBE...

WHAT GUY WOULD WANT A GIRL WHO CAN TAKE DOWN A TROLL OR A DRAGON WITH ONE SWIPE OF HER SWORD?

SURELY SOME-ONE?

WHAT WOULD YOU CALL A GIRL LIKE THAT?

RELIABLE.

FORGET I ASKED.

AH.

HIM?

...YEAH.

S-SOME-TIMES IT CAN WORK!

I THOUGHT LOVE AFFAIRS TORE PARTIES APART.

YOU NORMALLY WEAR ARMOR.

IN GOBLIN HUNTING, AT LEAST.

USING THE SAME OLD TACTICS WILL NOT GET YOU FAR.

TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT. CIVILIAN CLOTHES MAYBE.

I'M NOT ASKING ABOUT GOBLIN HUNTING!

UH ... HUH.

OKAY.

I'LL GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT.

CIVILIAN CLOTHES ...

I DON'T MIND.

SORRY ABOUT THE BIZARRE QUESTION.

YOU MAY BE A WEIRD AND STUBBORN FREAK...

...BUT I GUESS YOU'RE NOT SUCH A BAD GUY.

WE'RE COLLEAGUES, AREN'T WE?

HAR! HAR!

LOOK WHO'S MR. POPULAR.

YOU, THOUGH—

BOY!

BRING 'EM OVER!

YESSIR!

I WISH TO PLACE AN ORDER.

STAKES AND—

WHAT? YOU THINK I DIDN'T HEAR YOU? IT'S ALL HERE.

YOU'VE REALLY MADE YOURSELF A PART OF THIS PLACE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

WHEN THAT FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY CAME INTO MY SHOP AND BOUGHT MY CHEAPEST EQUIPMENT, I FIGURED I'D NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.

HEH!

I BELIEVE IT WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF MY MONEY AT THE TIME.

EH, NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE.

SAY, I'VE GOT SOMETHING... SPECIAL HERE.

WELL, NOW YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE MORE CASH...

...BUT YOU STILL COME IN AND BUY THE SAME CHEAP JUNK EVERY TIME!

WOULD IT KILL YOU TO BUY A HALFWAY-DECENT SWORD OR SOMETHING?

OH-HO.

A SOUTHERN-STYLE THROWING KNIFE.

LOOK.

고트...

GOTO (THUNK)

JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING I DECIDED TO WHIP UP. WHADDAYA THINK?

BA (FWAH)

GOT YOUR ATTENTION, HAVE I?

IT MAY LOOK A LITTLE ODD...

...BUT IT'S A BLADED WEAPON JUST THE SAME.

I DOUBT GOBLINS WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF IT.

WHAT ARE ITS OTHER STRENGTHS ?

IT'S LESS ABOUT STABBING AND MORE ABOUT CUTTING.

IT SPINS WHEN YOU THROW IT—STAYS STABLE.

GOOD DISTANCE TOO.

THE GOBLINS' EQUIPMENT IS IMPROVING...I MAY EVENTUALLY BE UNABLE TO KILL THEM WITH MY THROWING KNIVES ALONE.

I SEE...

AND SCROLLS. IF YOU GET ANY IN, SET THEM ASIDE FOR ME.

COURSE, OF COURSE. AS USUAL.

カチャ

KACHA (CLACK)

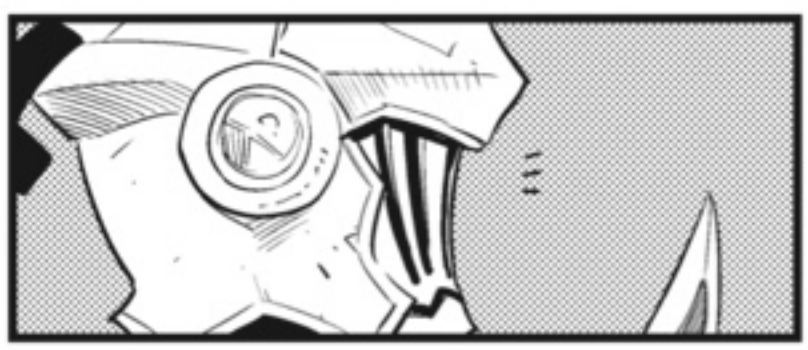
MY PLEA-SURE.

THAT'LL BE FIVE— NO, MAKE THAT FOUR GOLD COINS.

I WILL TAKE ONE.

AND I'LL TOSS IN THE SCABBARD I MADE FOR IT TOO.

ANYTHING ELSE?



BA (SHOOP)
BA

PORI
PORI (SCRATCH)
...

DO I LOOK LIKE A FISH-MONGER TO YOU?
DO YOU HAVE ANY DRIED FISH?

PLEASE SEND TWO OR THREE BARRELS TO THE FARM.
PROVISIONS ARE OVER THAT WAY.
BARRELS?
I TOLD YOU, I AIN'T A DAMN GROCERY STORE...

IT SEEMS YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING BETTER LATELY.

AND YOUR CHEEKS HAVE SUCH ROSINESS.

ALL WONDERFUL SIGNS. BUT...

CHAPTER 32

TSULLUN CHARMO

PF.

PF.

...YOU NEED TO STOP SULKING AND ACT LIKE A GROWN WOMAN!

GOORO

GOORO (TOSS)

WHAT ARE YOU, A CHILD? IT'S DISGRACEFUL.

BATA (KICK)

BATA

TOSSING AND KICKING ON YOUR BED...

YOU CAN'T JUST DROP EVERYTHING TO GO PRANCING ABOUT AT SOME FESTIVAL.

NOM. NOM.

YOU HAVE IMPORTANT DUTIES TO ATTEND TO AS ARCHBISHOP.

I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER.

ミシャキ

SHAKI (SHIP)

AH, I SEE THAT GOT YOUR ATTENTION.

THEY SAY THE GENTLEMAN WHO DID THAT QUEST FOR YOU IS A FINE MAN WHO IS VERY DEVOTED TO HIS WORK.

YOU HAVE SOME VERY, VERY IMPORTANT VISITORS TODAY...

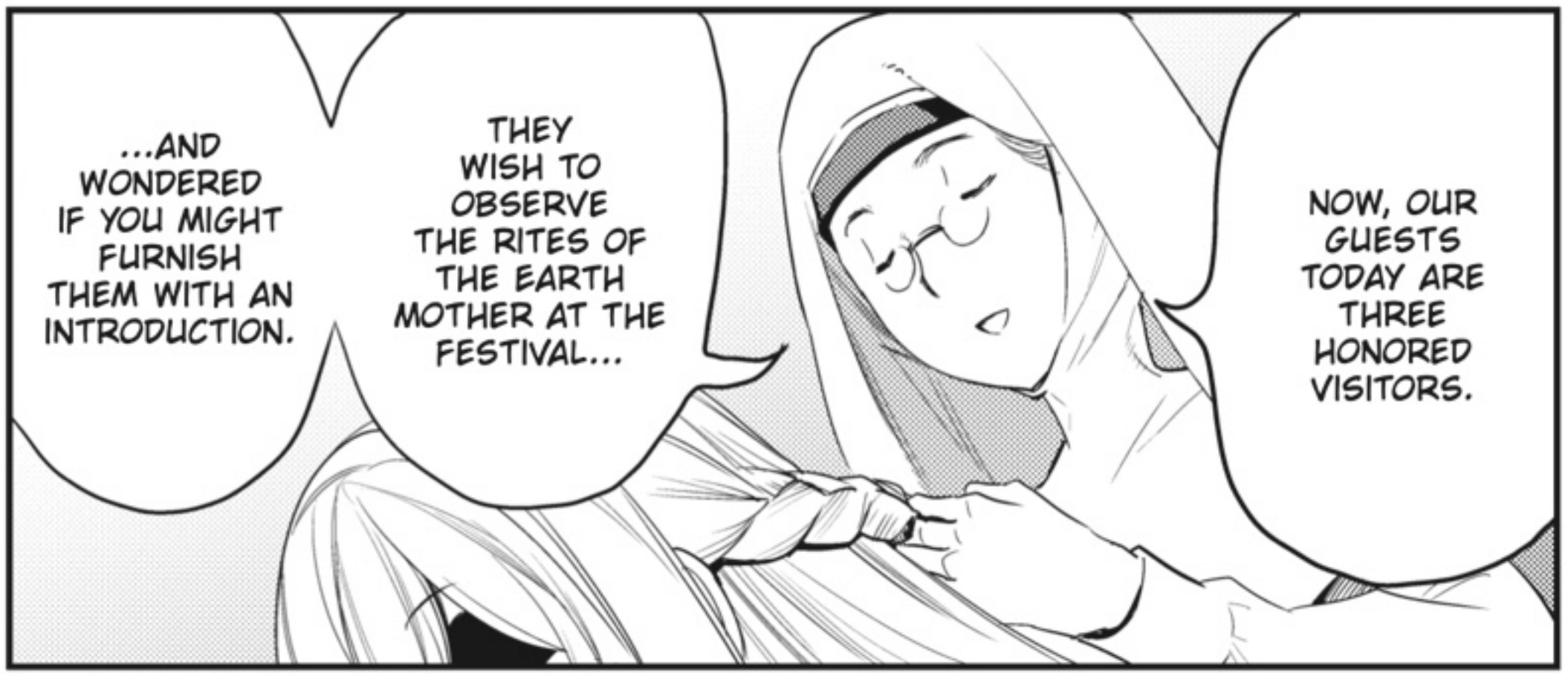
...SO PLEASE BEHAVE, WON'T YOU?

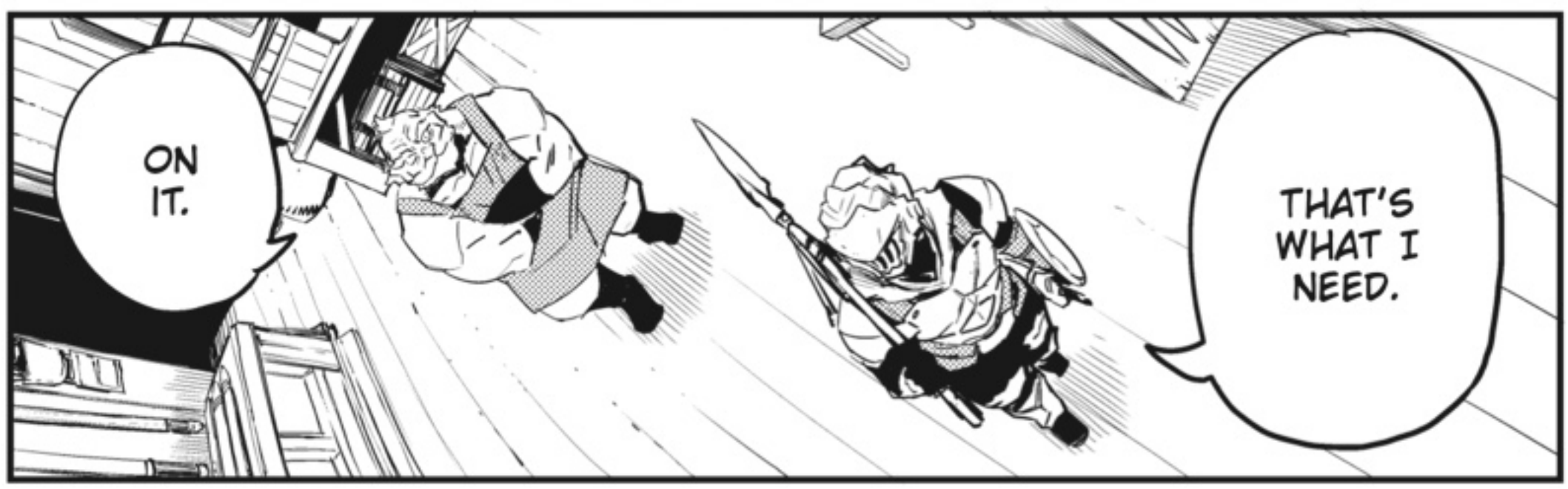
IF HE DISTRACTS YOU SO, WHY NOT WRITE HIM A LETTER? I'LL TAKE YOUR DICTATION.

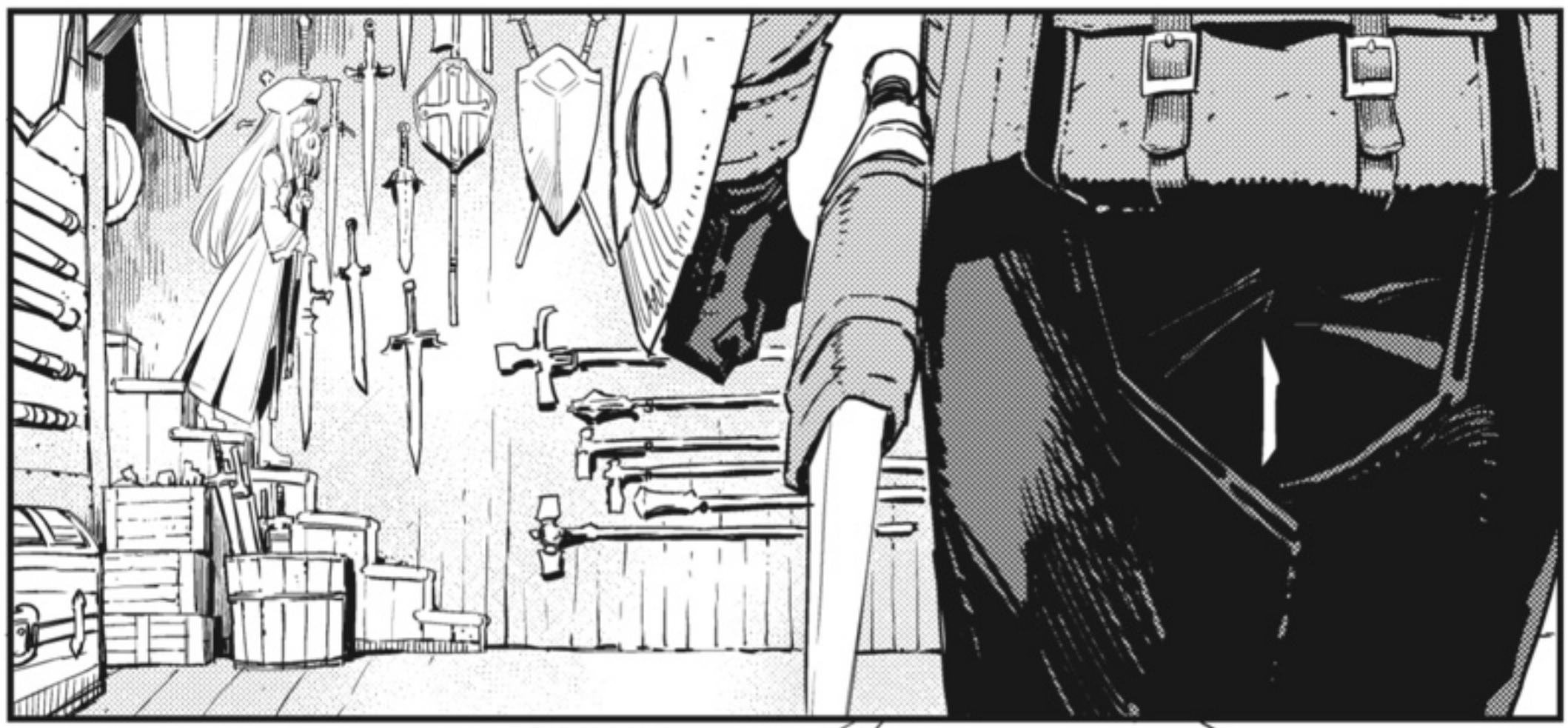
WE COULD USE OLD-STYLE PERFUMED PAPER.

I'LL GRIND FRESH INK...

HOH-HOH! THERE, NOW WE'RE LOOKING BETTER, AREN'T WE?




ON IT.
THAT'S WHAT I NEED.



ER, AH—
GOBLIN SLAYER.
DID YOU SLEEP LAST NIGHT?
Y-YES, I'M FINE.
OH!

ER—

UH...

ARE YOU GETTING NEW EQUIPMENT?

N-NO, I DON'T.

I'M FINE ...!

NO.

DO YOU NEED ADVICE?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

AH! Y-YES, SIR!

AH, YOU'RE HERE.

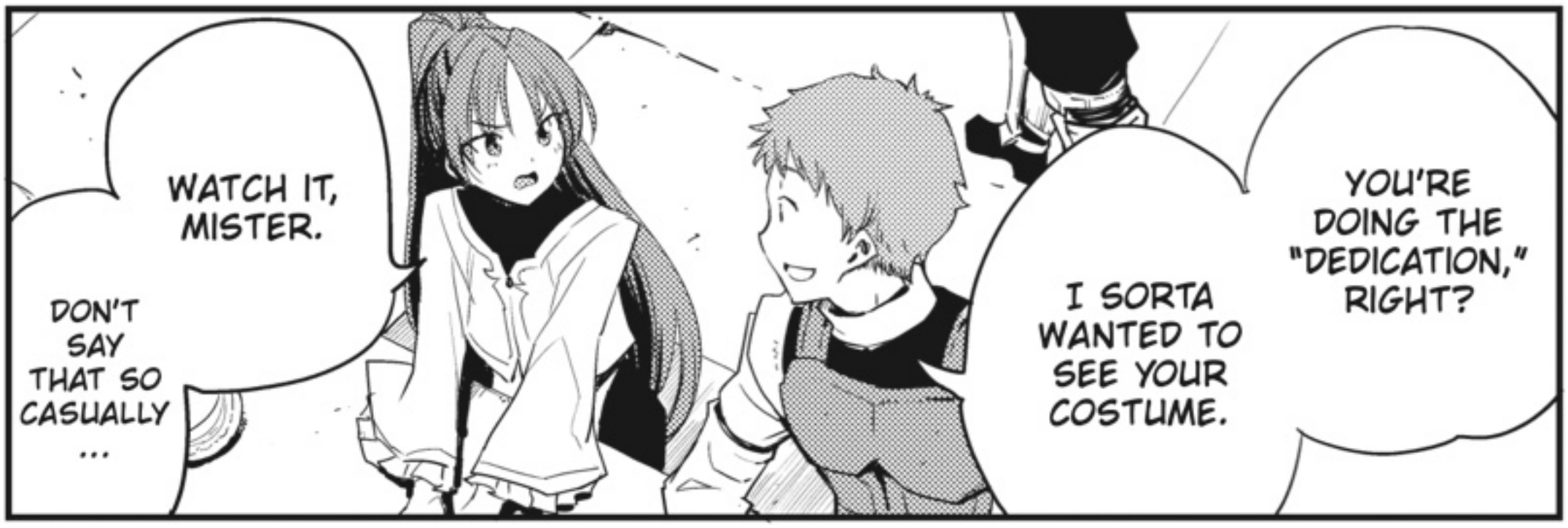
OKAY... SEE YOU!

I WILL GO COLLECT YESTERDAY'S REWARD.

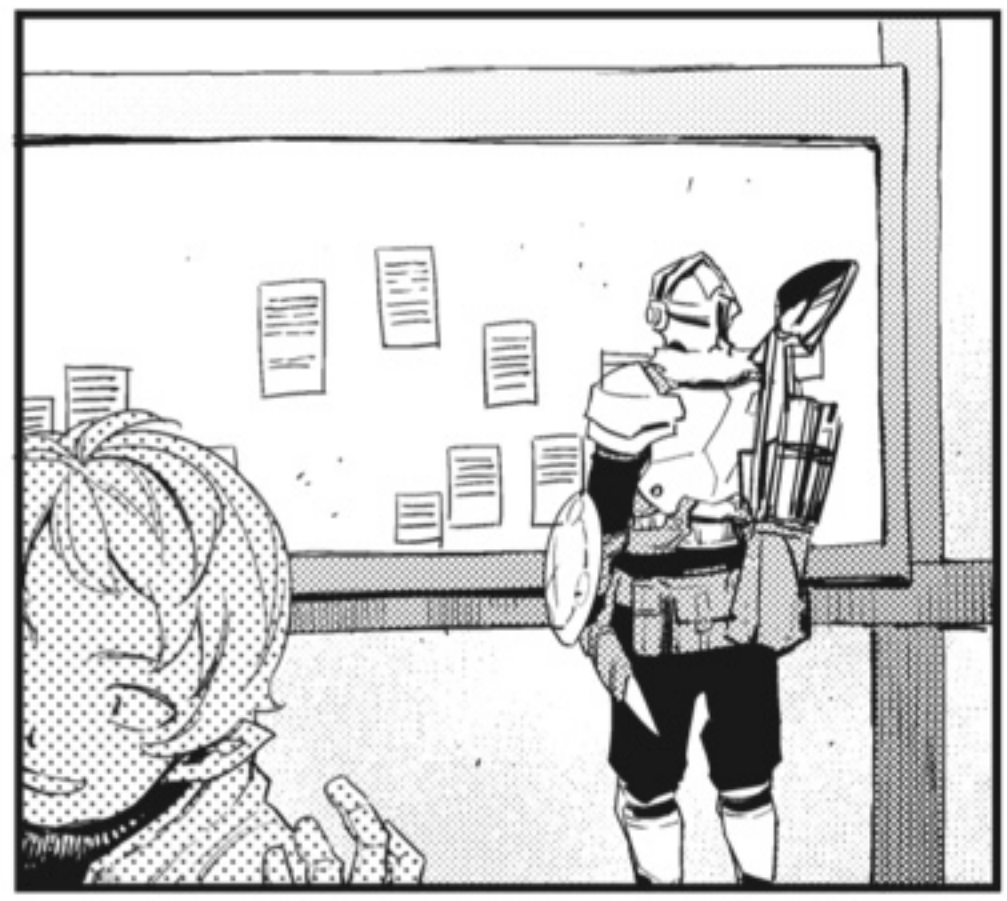
I SEE.

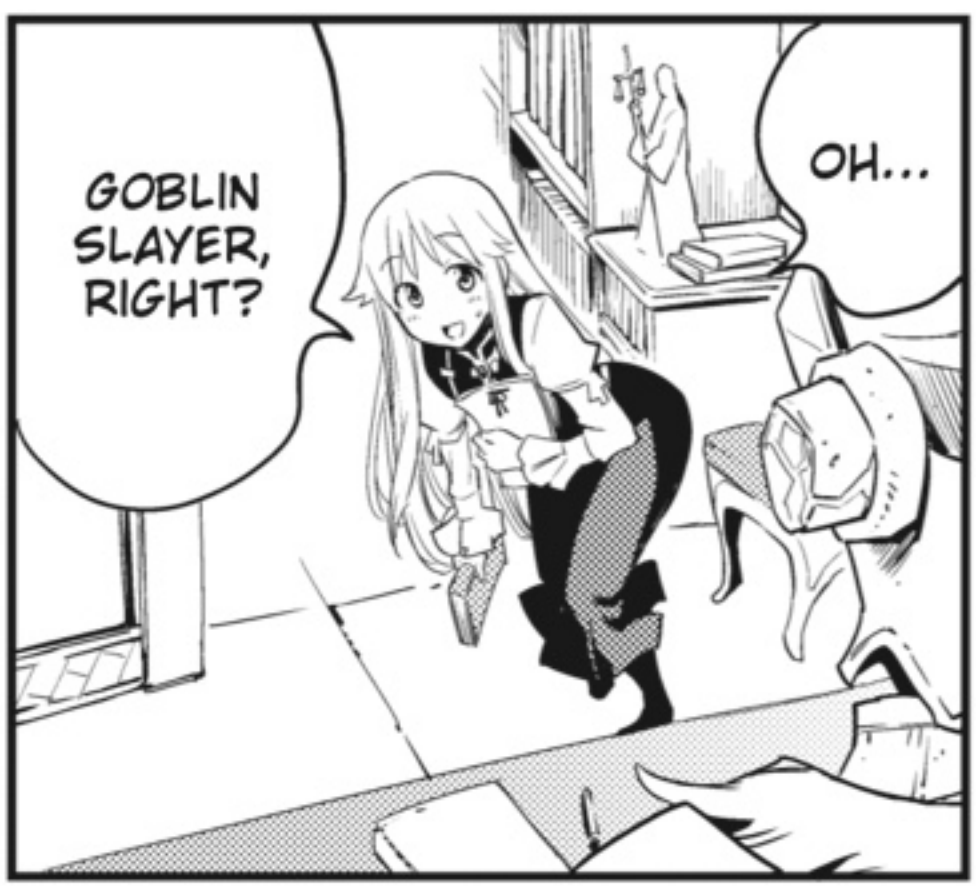
SILLY.
MUCH.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DRINK TOO...
MY HEAD ...
UGH ...!
MY...

J-JUST YOU SHUT UP! THERE'S A LOT OF FACTORS TO CONSIDER, Y'KNOW...
GEEZ, HOW LONG'S IT TAKE TO BUY ONE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT?


WATCH IT, MISTER.
DON'T SAY THAT SO CASUALLY ...
I SORTA WANTED TO SEE YOUR COSTUME.
YOU'RE DOING THE "DEDICATION," RIGHT?

...NONE TODAY.
I SEE.




GOBLIN SLAYER, RIGHT?
OH...

HEY.
DOKIN (SHING)
ドキン
BASA (RUSTLED)
ばさ。

COULD YOU SPLIT IT EQUALLY INTO TWO BAGS?

HERE FOR THE REWARD FROM YESTERDAY'S QUEST?

AND THEN I WISH TO MAKE MY DETAILED REPORT.

WE HAVE EVERYTHING READY TO GO.

...SO YOU CAN TALK TO HIM IF YOU WANT.

IT'S A PROFESSIONAL MATTER...

I DON'T KNOW ...

OHHHH...

UHH...

JARA (CLINK)

THERE'S A LOT OF WORK TO TAKE CARE OF BEFORE SHE TAKES OFF FOR TOMORROW'S FESTIVAL...

...SO SHE'S BEEN BUSY AS A BEE TODAY.

I DO NOT MIND.

MAYBE YOU'D RATHER WAIT UNTIL YOUR USUAL HANDLER IS HERE?

AND IT'S NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE ALREADY TAKEN.

...YOU KNOW, THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE.

THAT'S FINE.

MAY I TELL HER YOU ASKED AFTER HER?

ARE YOU SORRY THERE'S NO GOBLIN HUNTING TO DO?

ALSO, ABOUT GOBLINS.

ARE THERE NO QUESTS TODAY?

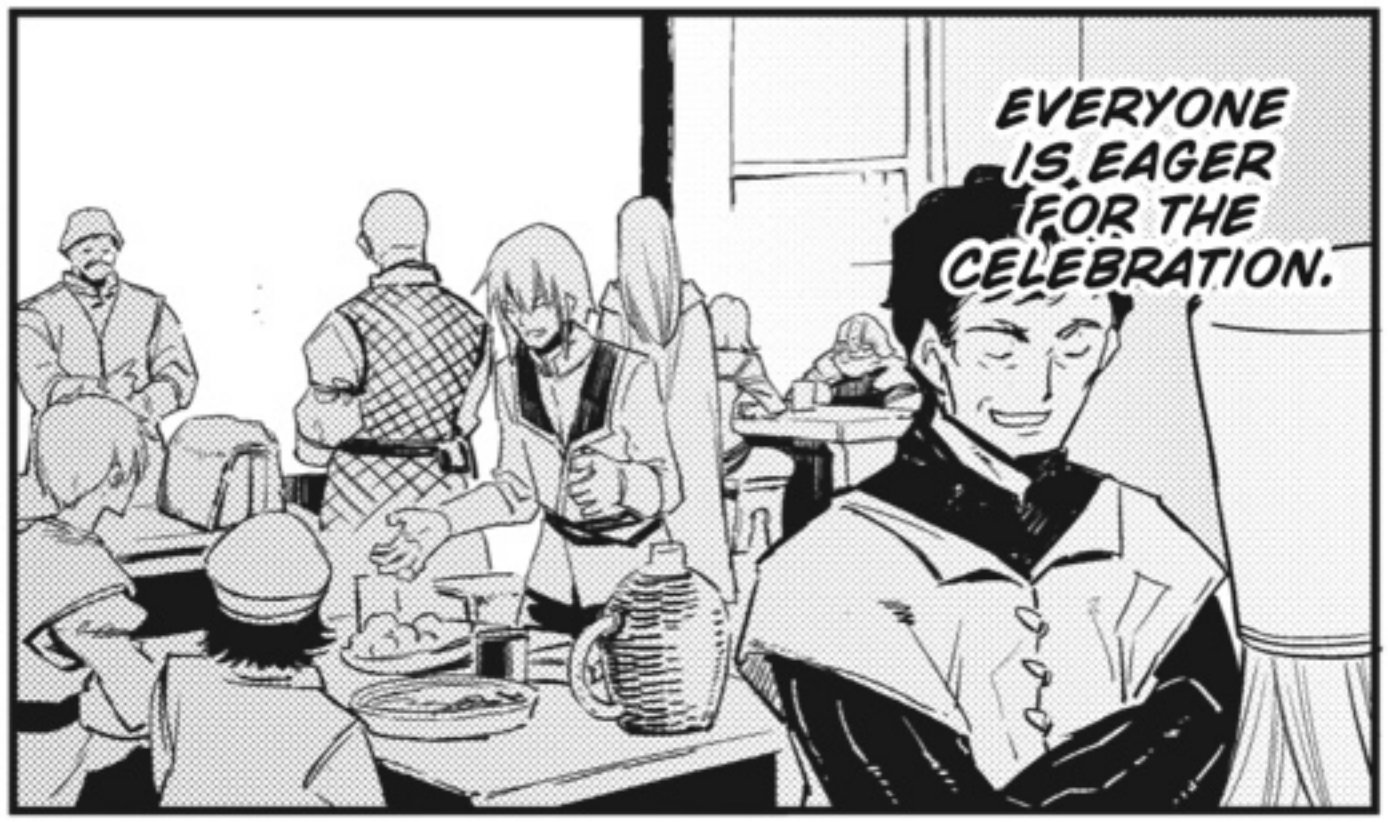
A DAY DOESN'T GO BY THAT THEY DON'T SHOW THEMSELVES.

GOBLINS LIVE BY THEFT.

YES.

IT MEANS THEY'RE WATCHING AND WAITING.

I DON'T LIKE IT.



PERHAPS NOT EVERYONE.

AND A GREAT DEAL TO DO.

THERE IS MUCH TO THINK ABOUT AND FEW CLUES.

GARI (SCRATCH)

GARI

WOULD THAT TOMORROW'S FESTIVAL SHOULD BE SO METEOROLOGICALLY BLESSED.

ANOTHER LOVELY DAY, EH, MILORD GOBLIN SLAYER?

OH-HO.

SHARPENED SPIKES? DO YOU MEAN TO GO INTO VAMPIRE HUNTING?

I WILL USE THEM ON GOBLINS.

VAM-PIRES ...

...DO NOT INTEREST ME MUCH.

IM...

WHY DO I SUSPECT YOU'RE NOT GETTING READY TO CELEBRATE?

HARD AT WORK ON ANOTHER PROJECT, I SEE.

AS I RECALL, VAMPIRES MULTIPLY BY BITING PEOPLE.

WELL, AT LEAST YOU KNOW ABOUT 'EM.

PERHAPS I SHOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS IN CASE A GOBLIN BECAME A VAMPIRE.

I SEE.

CAN'T IMAGINE WANTING TO SUCK GOBLIN BLOOD ANYWAY!

I DON'T MIND.

WE HAVE OUR OWN PREPARATIONS TO ATTEND TO. MAY WE JOIN YOU HERE?

A DEAD GOBLIN IS A GOBLIN CORPSE.

IF IT STARTED MOVING AGAIN, IT WOULD NO LONGER BE A GOBLIN.

RATHER SOME CLASS OF UNDEAD, I SHOULD SAY.

LIGHTS? NO...

SKY LANTERNS ?

YOU GOT IT.

WELL, LET'S GET TO IT.

THIS WOULD BE YOUR OWN HOME FESTIVAL, WOULDN'T IT, BEARD-CUTTER?

YES.

I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT VERY WELL, BUT...

...IT'S NOT BAD.

OH-HO!

THIS FESTIVAL IS LIKE SOMETHING FROM POETRY. I SIMPLY MUST SEE IT.

LAN-TERNS THAT FLOAT IN THE SKY...

WE HAD THESE WHERE I COME FROM, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD LEND A HAND.

I SEE.

SUCH FAITH DO I HAVE IN YOUR WORDS, MILORD GOBLIN SLAYER.

MY EXPECTATIONS RISE ALL THE MORE, THEN!

...IT'S A COMMON ENOUGH BELIEF.

THERE'S THE QUESTION OF WHERE THIS CUSTOM COMES FROM.

JUST LIKE VEGETABLE LANTERNS.

THEY MARK THE PATH HOMEWARD FOR THE DEAD.

THEY GUIDE GOOD SOULS ONWARD AND BANISH BAD ONES.

GHOSTS ARE BELIEVED NOT TO BE THE RESURRECTED DEAD BUT RATHER A CORPSE POSSESSED BY SOME EVIL SPIRIT OR THE LIKE.

I CONFESS HUMAN BELIEFS DON'T ALWAYS MAKE SENSE TO ME.

MY PEOPLE BELIEVE THE DEAD RETURN TO THE EARTH.

OR IF THEY ARE EATEN, THEY BECOME BLOOD AND SINEW. EITHER WAY, THEY REJOIN THE GREAT CYCLE.

...

HUH.

HMM ...

HOWEVER ...

AND I BELIEVE IT IS WELL TO THINK THEY COME HOME.

...GRIEVING THE DEAD, I UNDERSTAND.

I'M SURE OF IT.

I AGREE.

...I'D BETTER KEEP UP MY GAME TOO.

MEANING ...

I MUST WORK DILIGENTLY.

BUT OF COURSE.

MY FAITH IS IN THE SPIRITS OF MY ANCESTORS, THE FEARSOME NAGAS, WHOSE BLOOD RUNS IN MY VEINS.

WELL, IF IT AIN'T THE TOWN'S LOUDEST CITIZEN.

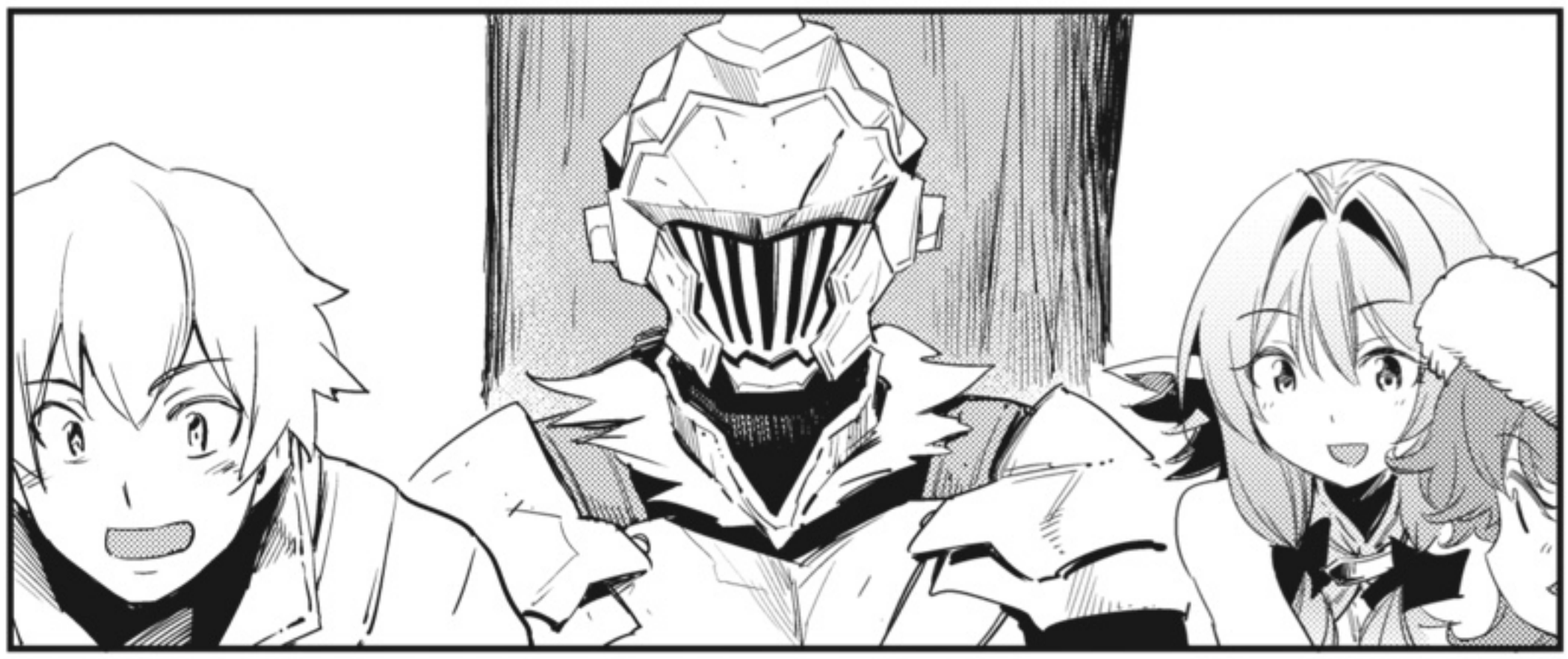
POPULAR... WITH THE KIDS, OF COURSE!

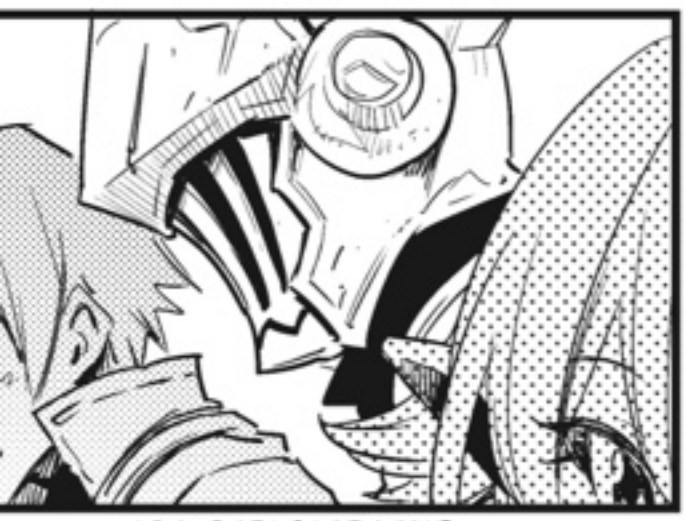
ZORO (JABBER)

ZORO

HEY, DWARF!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH ORCBOLG?





SFX: GARI (SCRATCH)

...THE SHEEP'S CHEESE...
LET'S SEE...
...A SALAD, AND...
I'LL HAVE THE GRAIN PLATTER, THE FAVA BEAN POTAGE, THE BLACK BREAD...
HM, MAYBE I SHOULD TRY ONE OF THESE.

IT'S MY TREAT.
ANYTHING YOU WANNA EAT, ORCBOLG?
I AM FINE WITH ANYTHING.

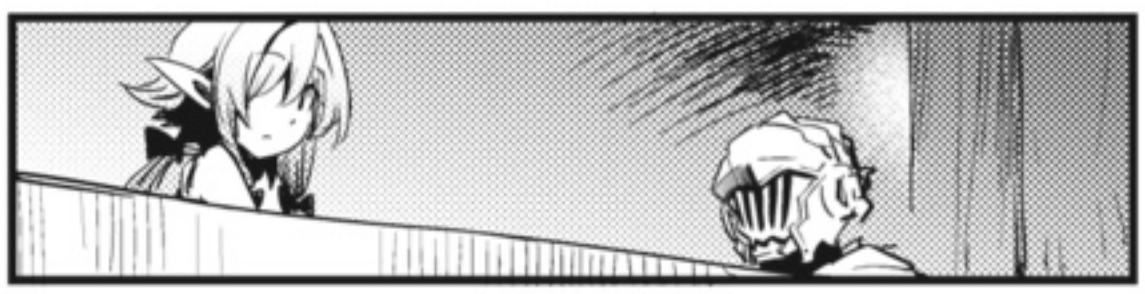
I'LL TAKE IT!
WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT WINE IN STOCK TODAY AS WELL.

HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE THAT HELMET OFF?

I WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF INVITING YOU OUT, SO THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS ACT LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN!

NOT THAT I REALLY CARE, BUT...

...WE PICKED A PLACE THAT DOESN'T NORMALLY SERVE ADVENTURERS. PEOPLE ARE NOTICING YOU.



WELL, SOME PEOPLE NEVER CHANGE.
FINE.
S—I—I—G—H…
GOBLINS MAY SHOW UP IN TOWN.
I CAN'T LET DOWN MY GUARD.
THE FESTIVAL TOMORROW. I HEARD, YOU KNOW.
ABOUT WHAT?
SO WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?

WE ARE NOT PLAYING.

...AND WITH YOUR RECEPTIONIST GIRL IN THE AFTERNOON.

PLAYING WITH YOUR FARM GIRL IN THE MORNING...

I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T ...

ELVES DO!
くぴ
KUPI (PWIP)
YOU HAVE SHARP EARS, THOUGH.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR AFTERNOON ENGAGEMENT IS MAKING THE PLANS.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MORNING ONE? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH HER?

YOU'VE KNOWN HER A LONG TIME, RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE THAT GIRL SOMEWHERE SHE LIKES?

WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE TRUE TO YOURSELF, ORCBOLG.

...I CANNOT TAKE YOU HOME IF YOU GET DRUNK.
PHEW!
THAT GOES DOWN SMOOTH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D TAKE ME FOR SOMEONE WHO'D GET FALLING-DOWN DRUNK.

ALSO!
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SAY ONLY "IS THAT SO?" "I SEE," "INDEED?" "YES," AND "NO"!!
HRM...

...NEED HELP?
YES. THERE IS STILL SOMETHING I MUST DO.
THOSE THINGS YOU WERE MAKING EARLIER. THEY WERE FOR KILLING GOBLINS, RIGHT?
NO.
...HM.
I'M FINE.
FOR NOW.
HEARD WHAT IT IS?
NO.
HOW ABOUT THE OUTFIT THAT GIRL BOUGHT TODAY?
NO, NOTHING.
DID YOU SEE IT?

IS THAT SO?

YEAH, IT IS.

GACHA (CLATTER)

OH?

I'LL KEEP IT TO MYSELF, THEN.

HM?

I SAID IT WAS MY TREAT.

SOMEDAY ...

PAYMENT IN ADVANCE, HUH?

THAT'S CORRECT.

SOME-DAY...

...I MAY CALL ON YOU...

FOR... FOR HELP.

HEH!

PASS.

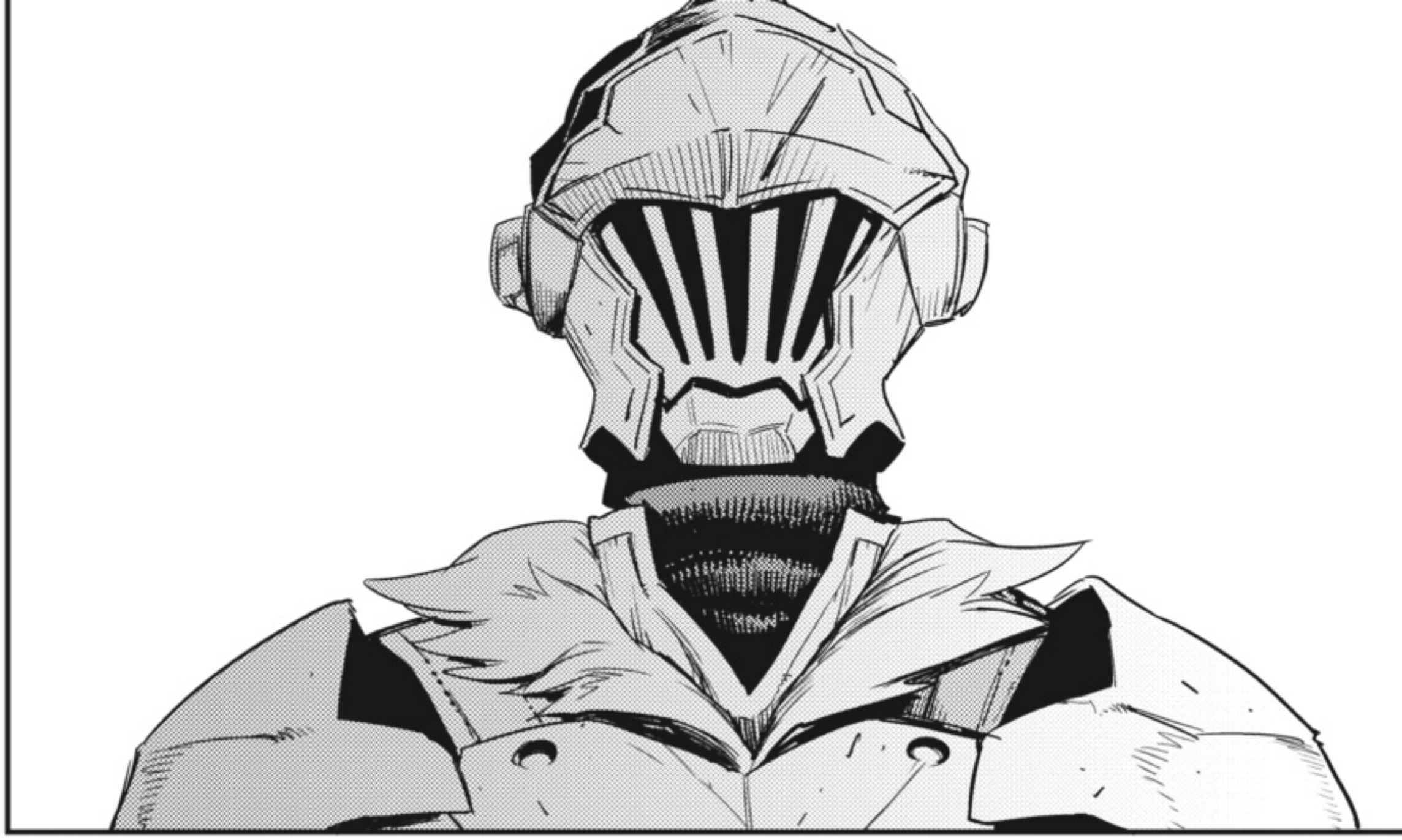
ZUI (SWEEP)

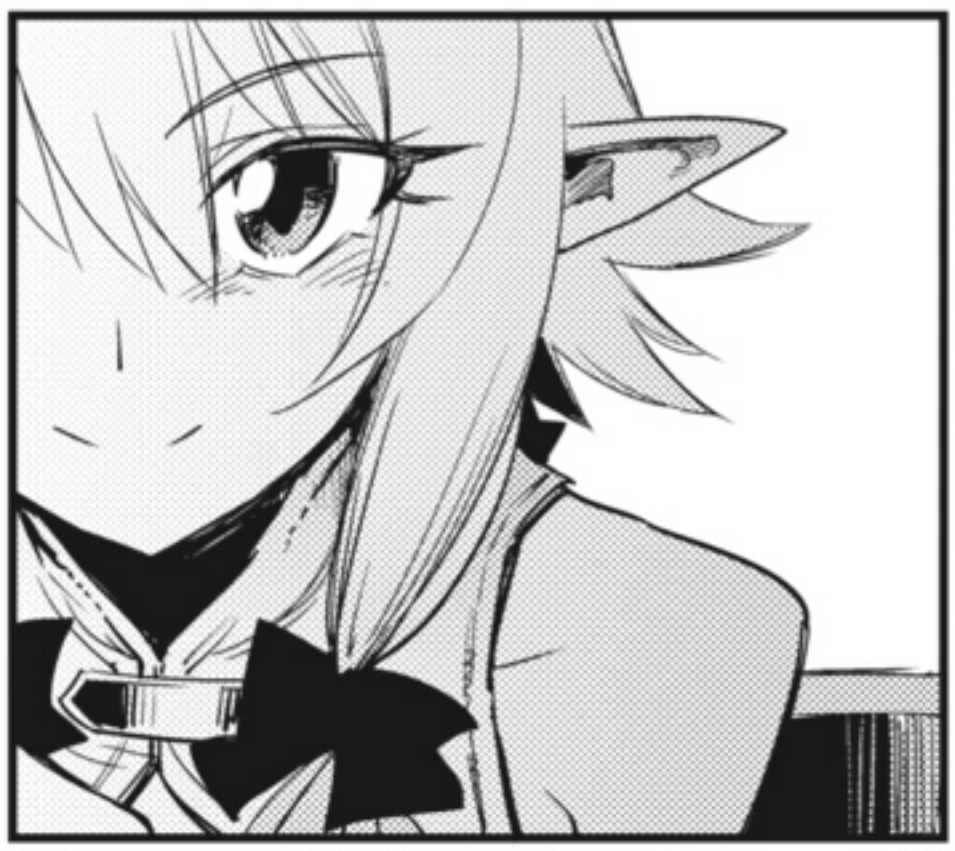
YOU GO ON ONE ADVEN-TURE WITH ME!

I SEE.

INSTEAD!

NEEDLESS TO SAY— NO GOBLINS!

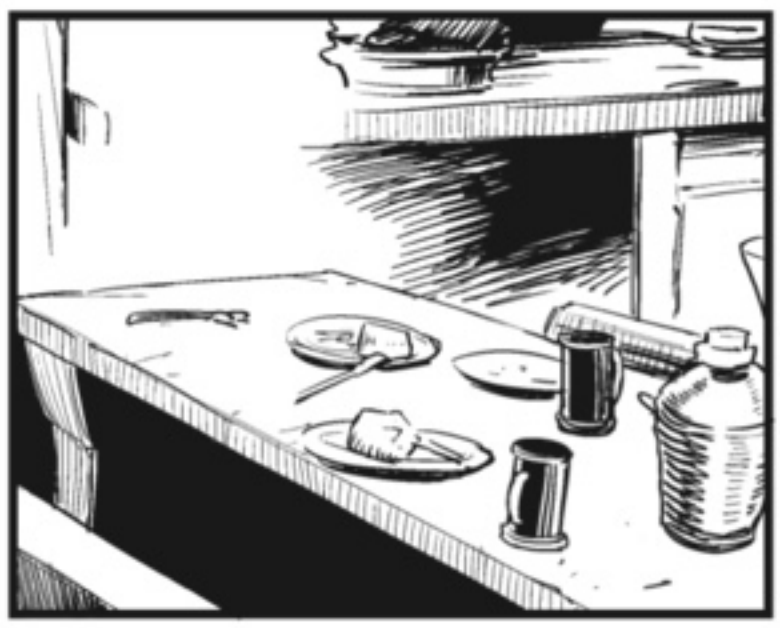




UNDER-STOOD.

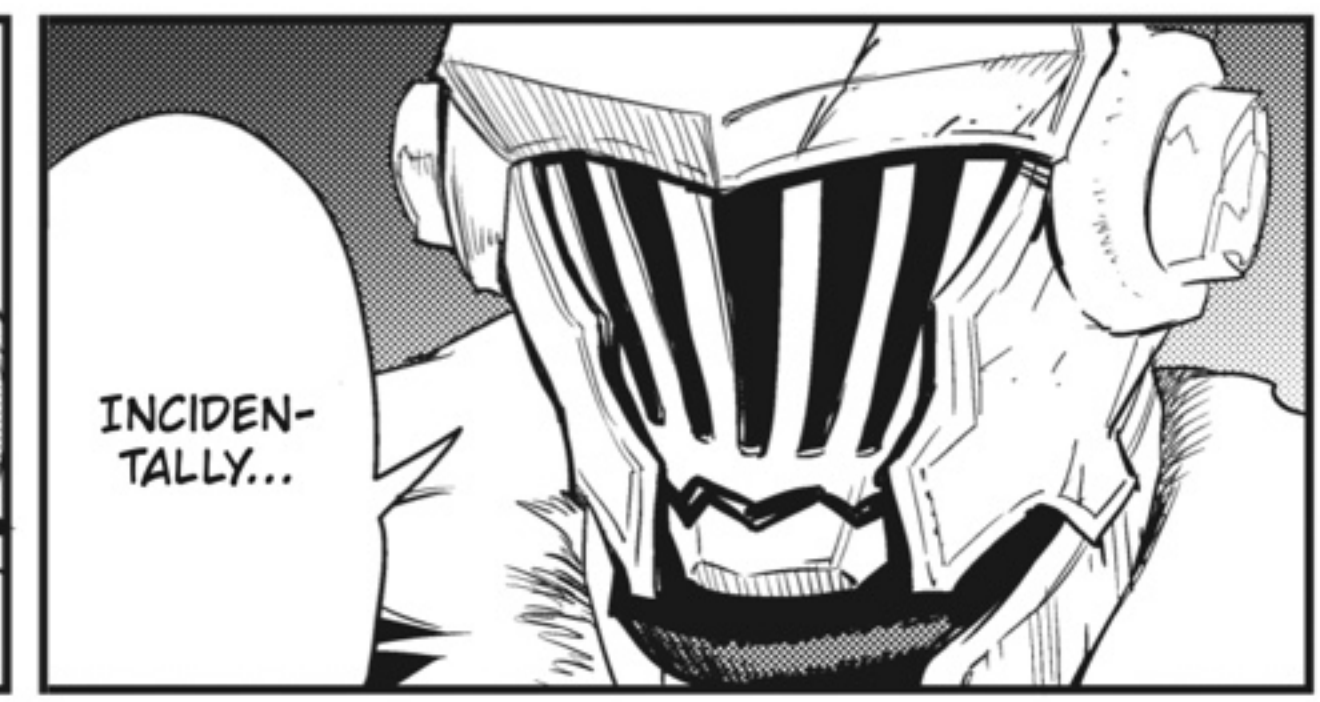
ON THAT CONDITION, THEN.

WHOO-HOO!

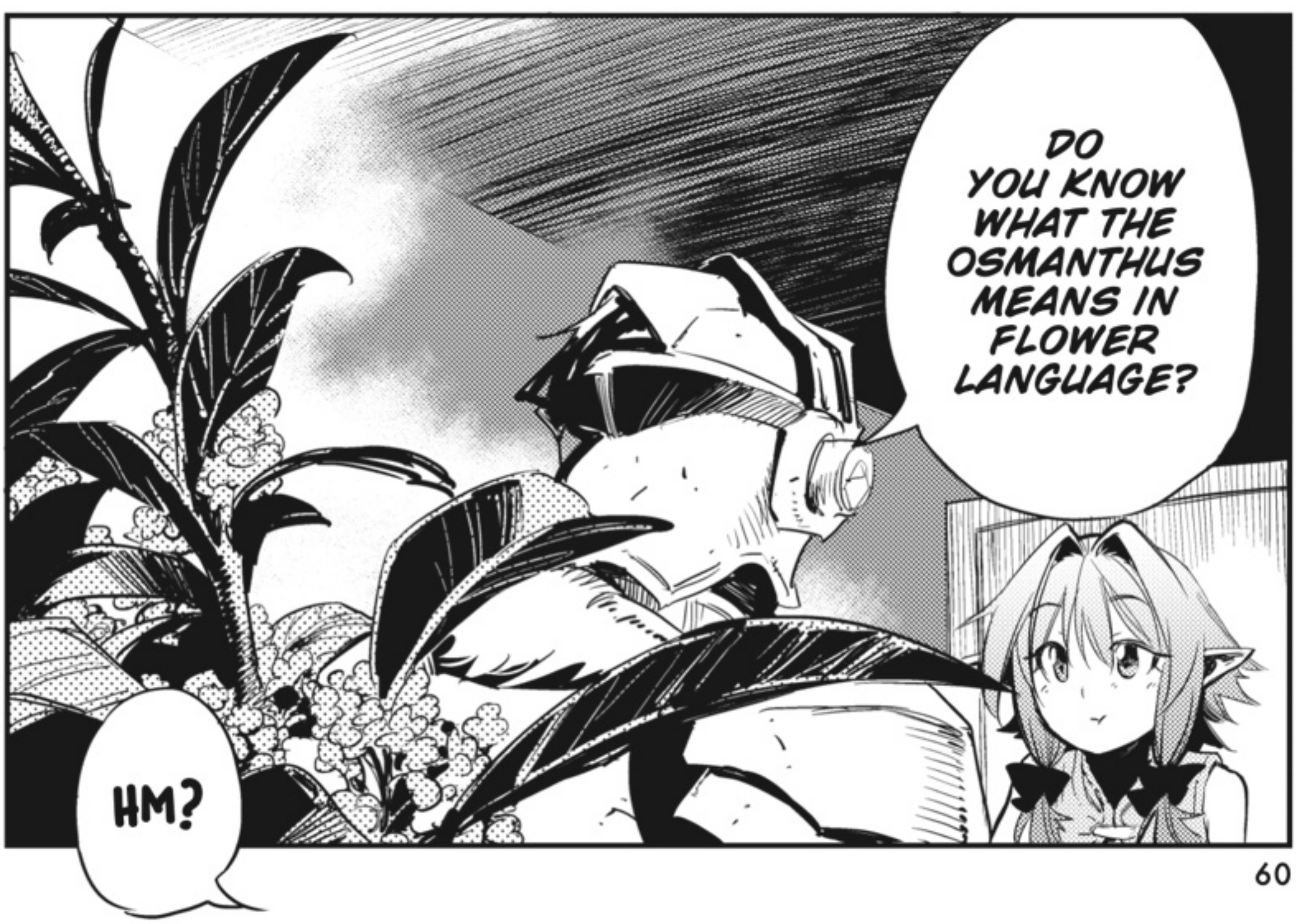


ALL RIGHT, THEN! LET'S DIG IN!
IT WON'T BE ANY GOOD IF IT GOES COLD.

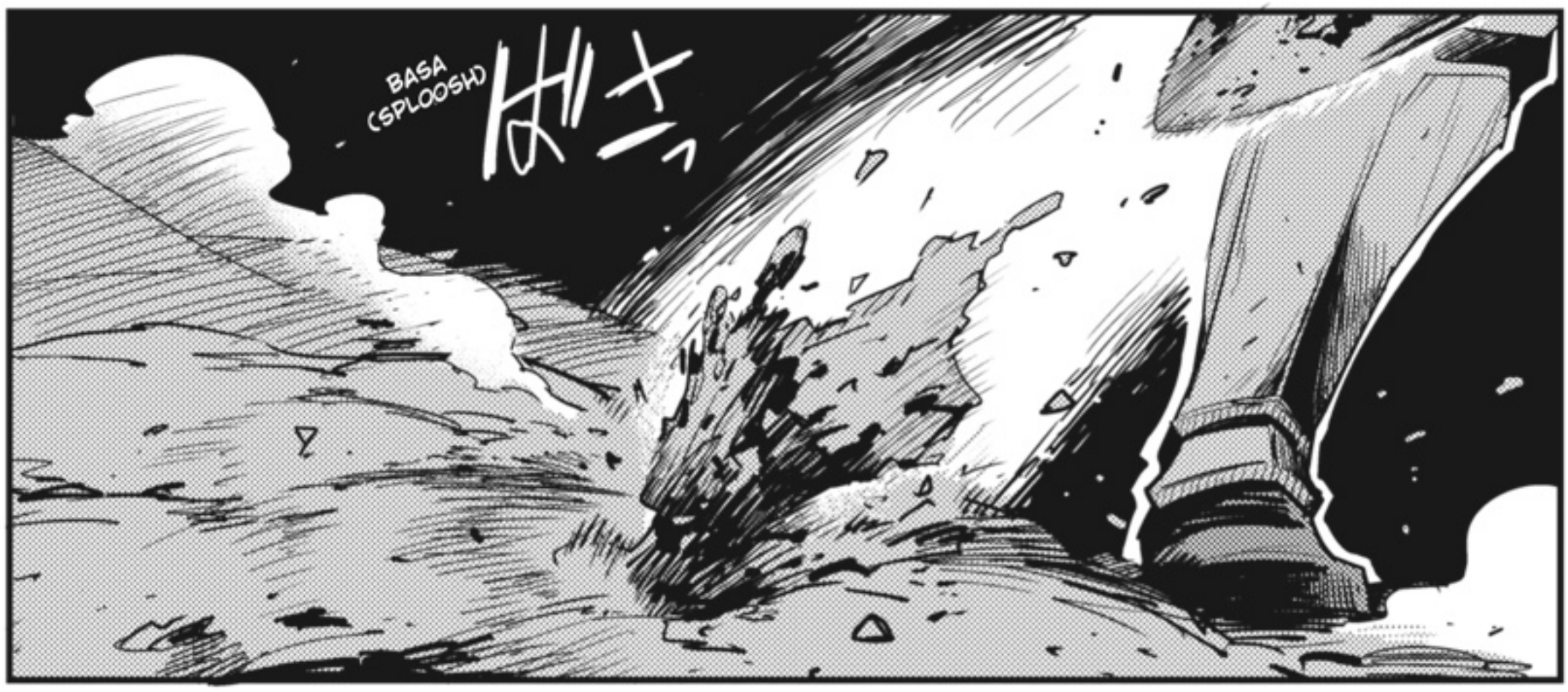
YEAH?

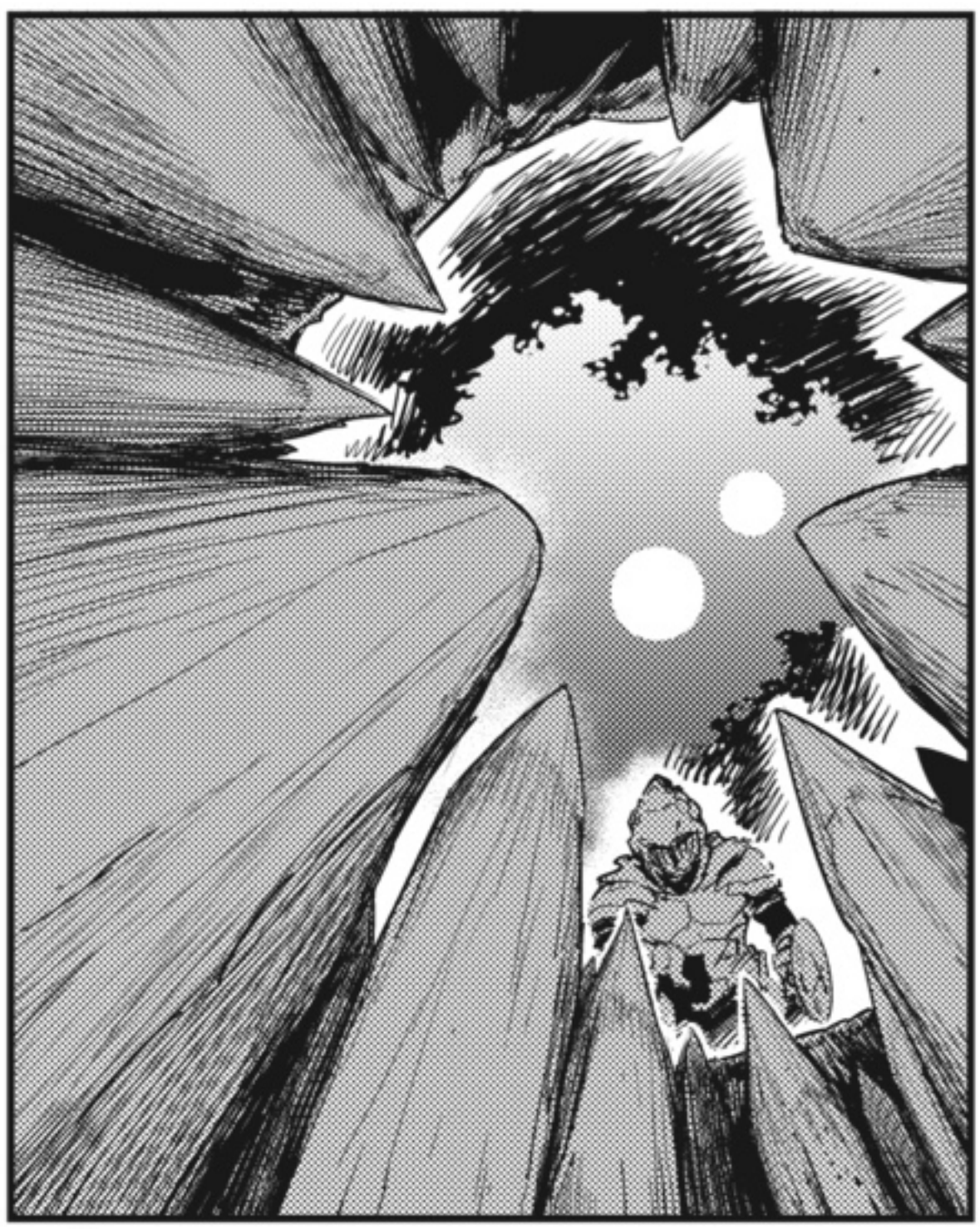

INCIDEN-TALLY...

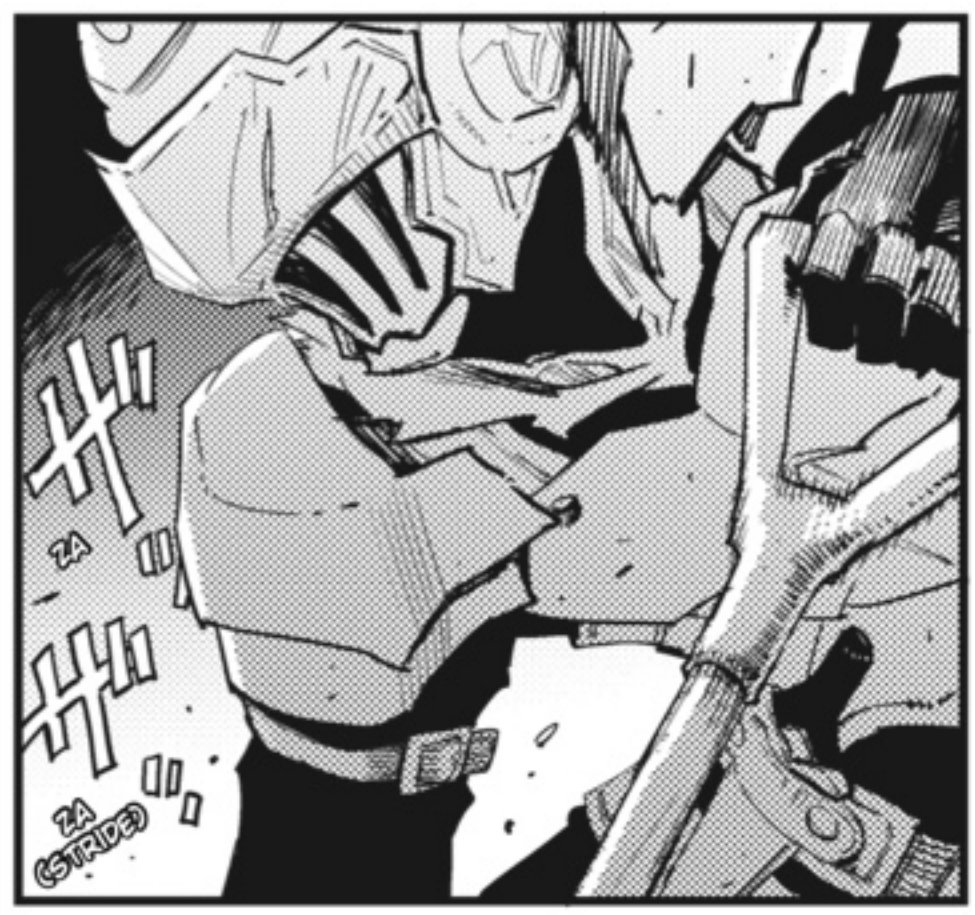
HMPH.


DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE OSMANTHUS MEANS IN FLOWER LANGUAGE?
HM?

IT IS ALWAYS CLEAR WHAT I MUST DO.


BASA (SPLOOSH)



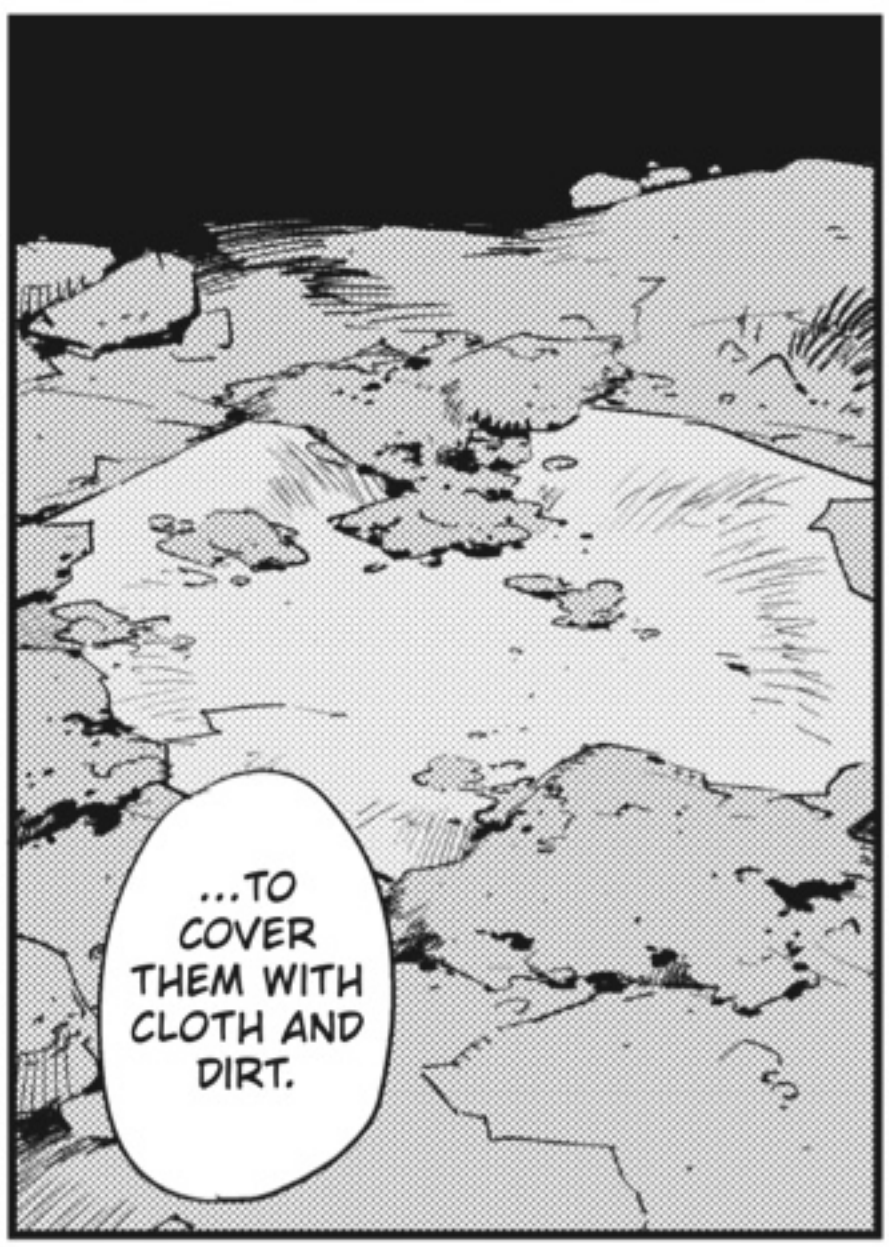

ZA (STRIDE)

CHAPTER 33

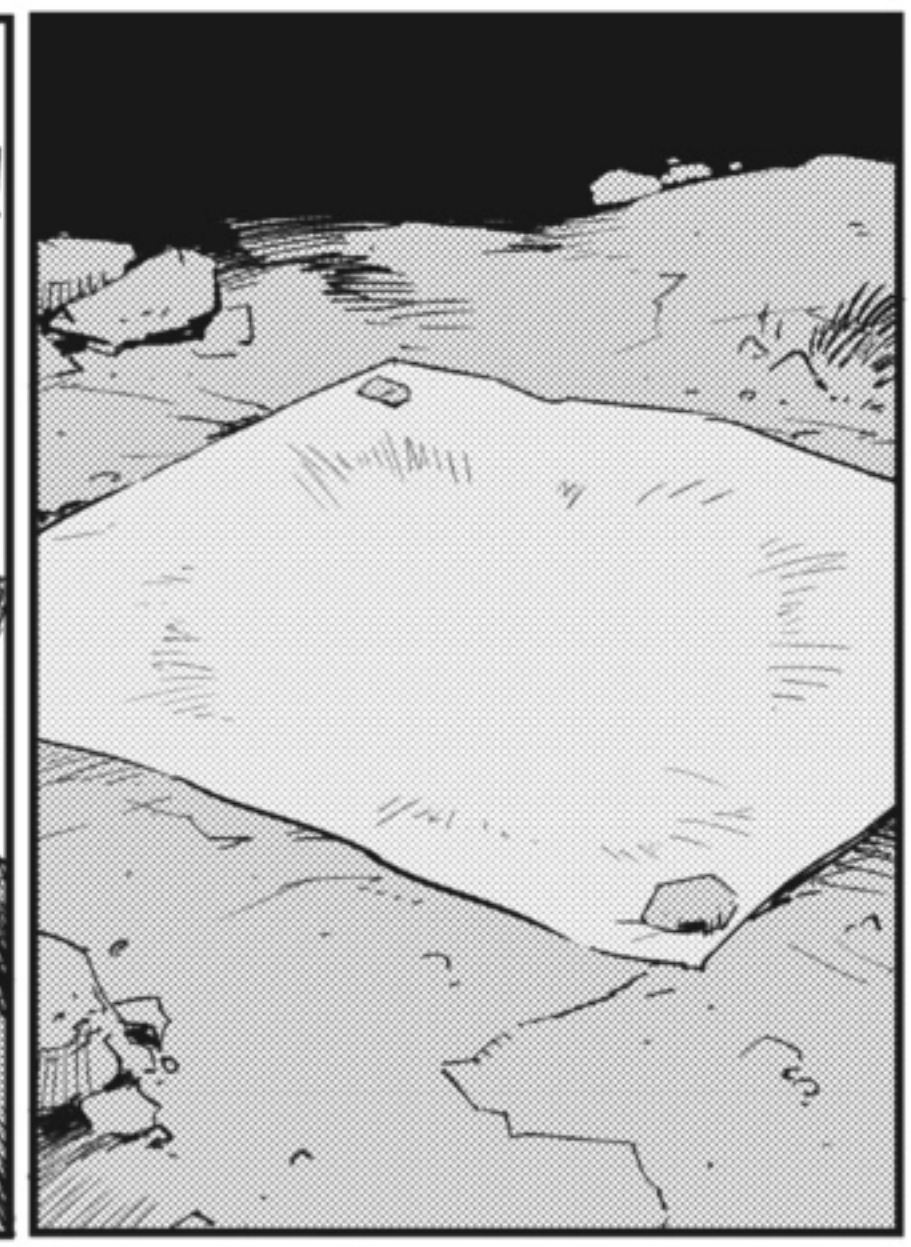
PITS FOR THEM TO FALL INTO.

BA (FLAP)

NOW...

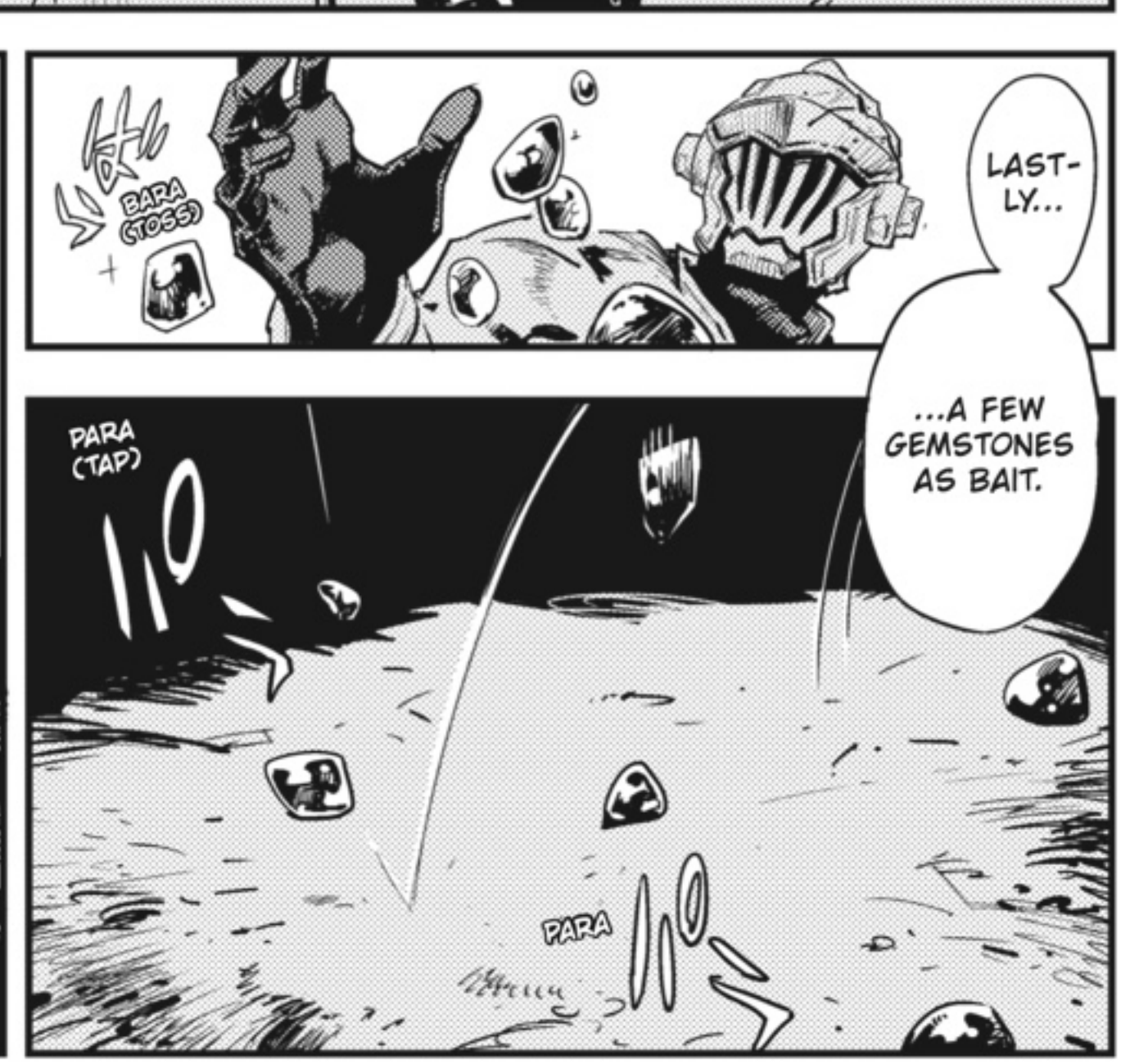

...TO COVER THEM WITH CLOTH AND DIRT.

ZA (SHPP)



GOOD.

NOW I JUST NEED TO PUT THE LEFTOVER EARTH IN SACKS TO MAKE SANDBAGS ...
...AND SET SOME ALARMS.

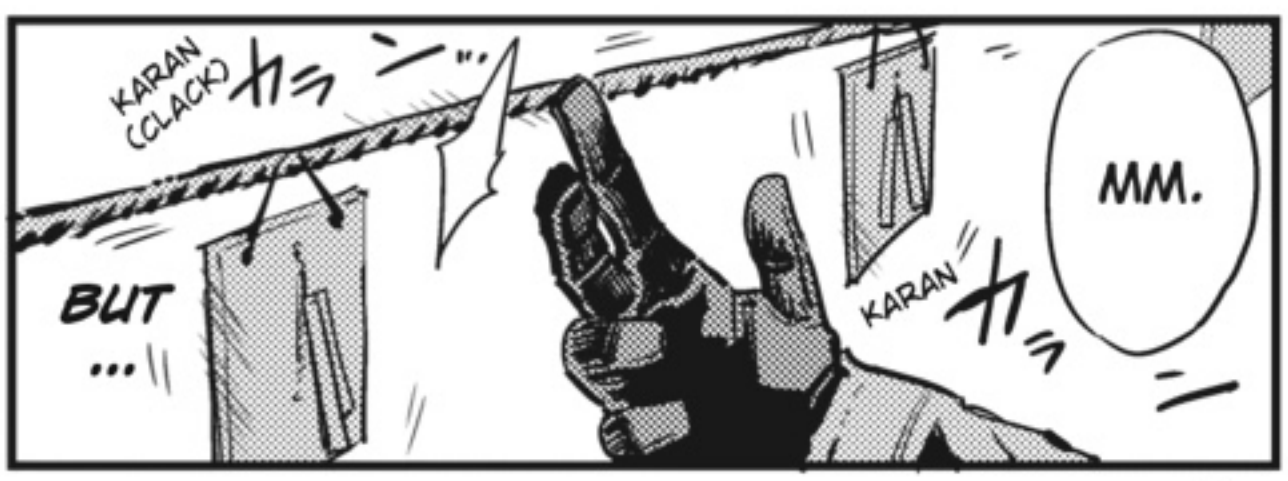

BARA (TOSS)
LAST-LY...
...A FEW GEMSTONES AS BAIT.
PARA (TAP)
PARA

IF THE GOBLINS PLAN TO ATTACK THE TOWN DURING THE FESTIVAL...
...THEY WON'T USE THE PATH OR THE FIELD.

THEY WILL COME THROUGH THIS FOREST.

...IT CANNOT HURT TO BE PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY.

I DON'T KNOW IF THEY ARE PLANNING ANYTHING.


KARAN (CLACK)
BUT ...
KARAN
MM.

YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?

WHO ARE YOU?

HYU (FWOO)

PITA (SHING)

YOU FILTH!

I'M ASKING THE QUES-TIONS HERE!

A LONG-SWORD.

SINGLE EDGED.

SHE'S USED TO IT.

I AM GOBLIN SLAYER.

CHARI (JINGLE)

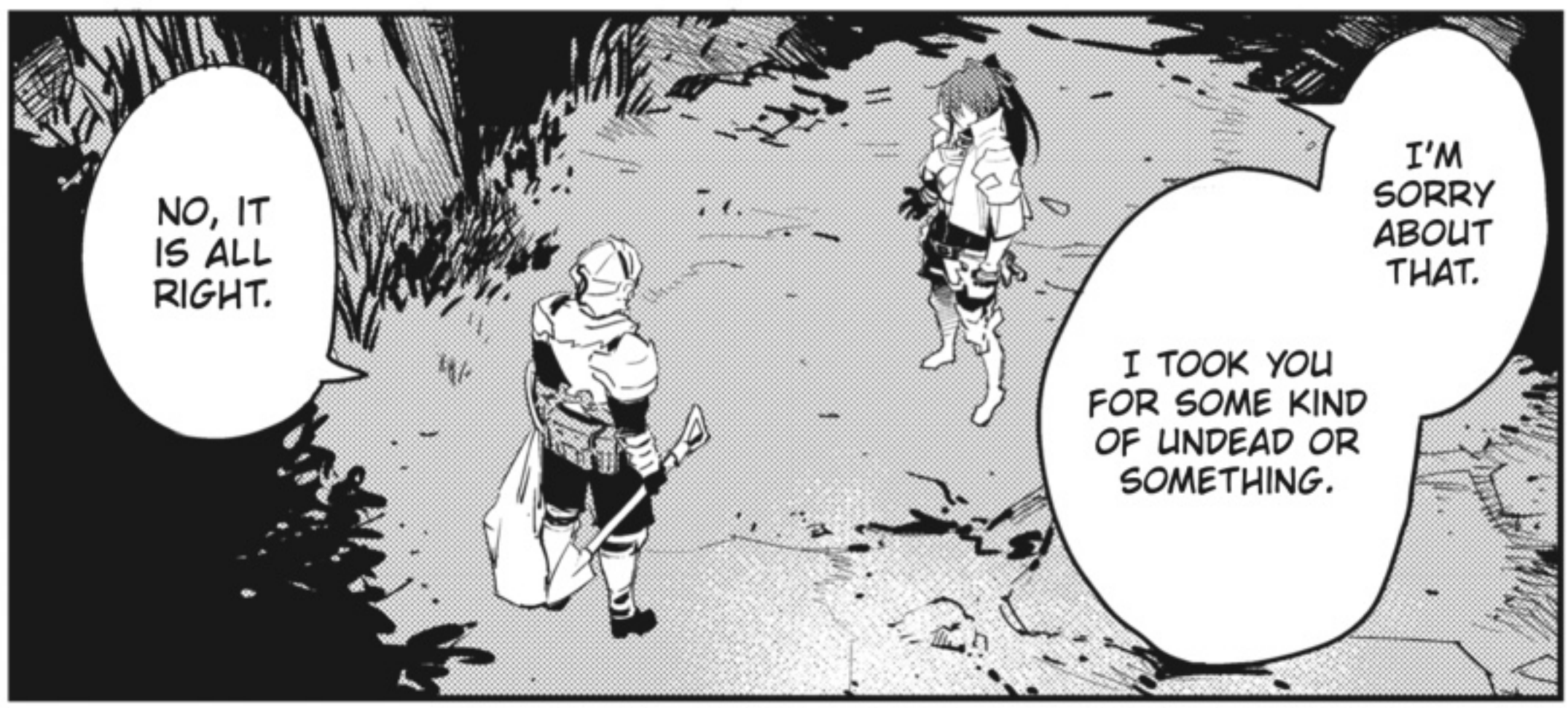
チャリ

ARE YOU AN ADVEN-TURER? WHERE'S YOUR TAG?

ONE WHO KILLS... GOBLINS ...?

I SEE ...
IT SEEMS I WAS HASTY.

SILVER RANK...
THE GUILD HAS RECOGNIZED ME AS SUCH.


NO, IT IS ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I TOOK YOU FOR SOME KIND OF UNDEAD OR SOMETHING.

JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS LIKE THAT!
GASA (FWP)
SEE, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET!

TA

TA (STEP)

NO WORRIES, THOUGH— I STOPPED HER!

HE IS INDEED SUSPICIOUS LOOKING, THOUGH.

...

JUST BEING CAREFUL.

HUH.

CARE-FUL...

BASA (FLAP)

SO WHAT WERE YOU DOING?

I WANNA KNOW TOO!

OH, UH, WE'RE NOT MAKING FUN OF YOU.

YOU JUST LOOK... INTER-ESTING.

A STRANGE OUTFIT ...

IS THAT SO?

DELIBERATELY HIDING HIS FACE WOULD BE JUST TOO OBVIOUS.

I AGREE.

I DOUBT HE'S INVOLVED.

HAVE YOU COME TO SEE THE FESTIVAL?

NO WORRY.

SORRY 'BOUT THAT, MISTER!

ER, SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

HUH, OKAY.

HE WON'T BE A PROBLEM.

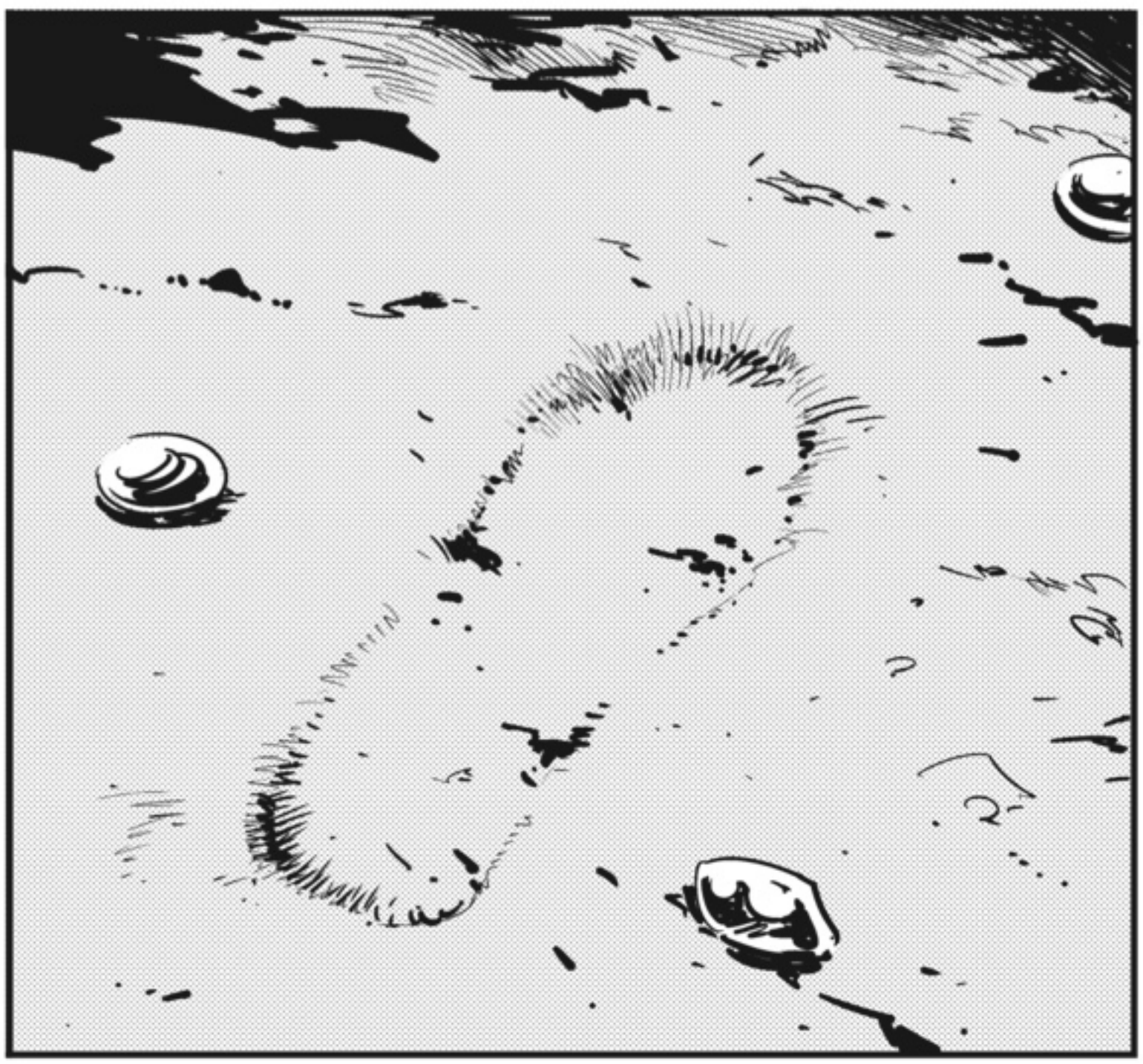
AND I CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR ABILITIES.

SORRY AGAIN!

GOOD POINT, IT'S PRETTY LATE! GOTTA HURRY!

IF YOU NEED LODGINGS, YOU SHOULD FIND THEM SOON.

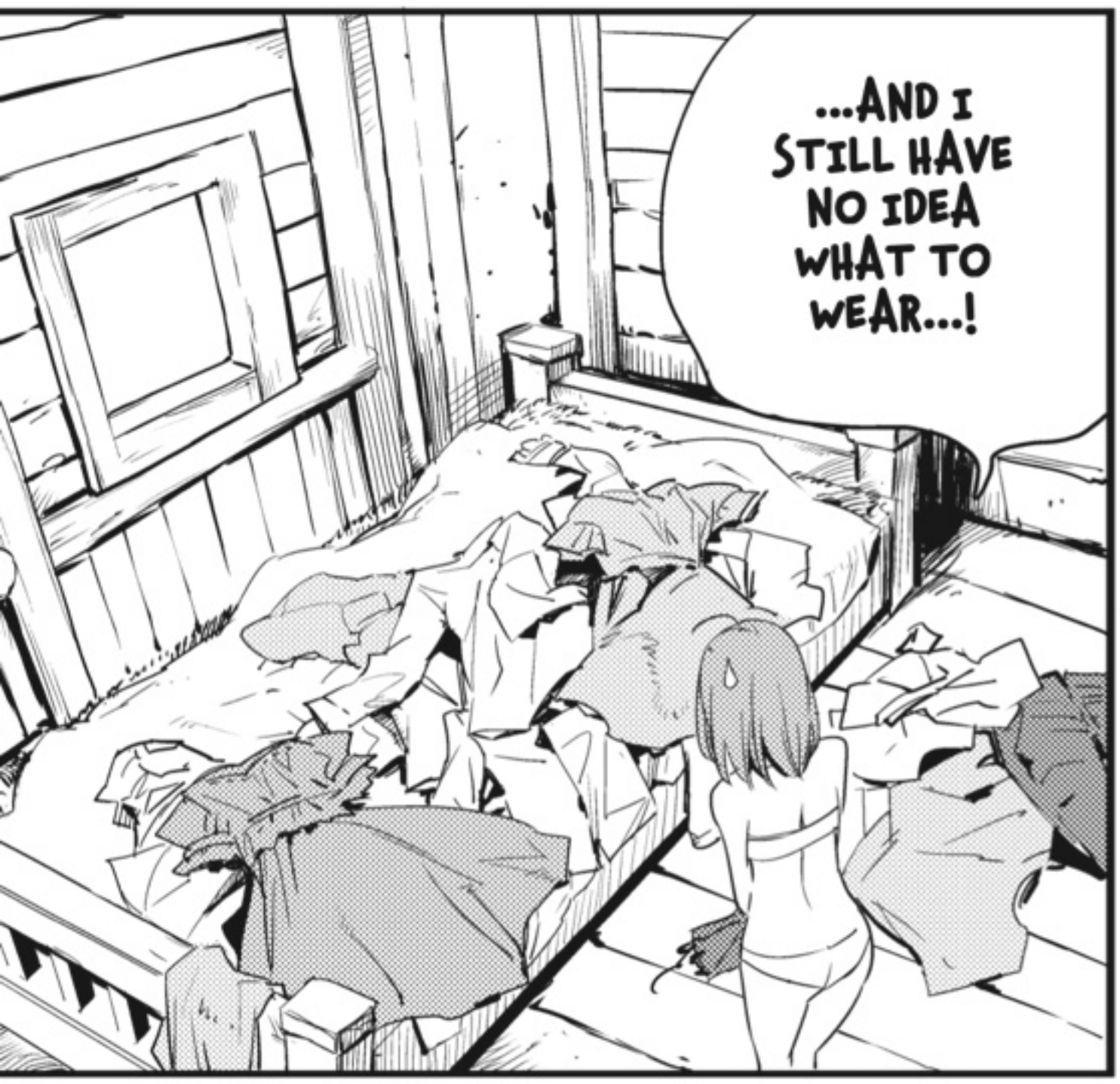
WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY, THEN.



...BUT IT SEEMS I NEED TO RESTRICT MY TRAPS FURTHER.

I TRIED TO FIND A PLACE PEOPLE WOULDN'T PASS THROUGH...

PON
PON (PUFF)


...AND I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO WEAR...!

OH ...!
THE FESTIVAL'S ALREADY STARTED...

AND I'D LIKE SOMETHING JUST A BIT...
BUT I'M GOING TO BE WALKING WITH HIM...
OR SHOULD I JUST DRESS LIKE I ALWAYS DO?

OR—
—SOME-THING A LITTLE BOLDER?

MAYBE A NICE, SIMPLE DRESS?

I GUARANTEE HE'S GOING TO DRESS JUST LIKE ALWAYS, THOUGH...!

GO (RMMM)

GO

GO

...

KON (KNOCK)

KON

ARGH, I'M TOTALLY LOOOST!

RIGHT! UNDER-WEAR!

DOESN'T MATTER, DOES IT? I GUESS?

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE THE RIGHT TIME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.

OH...

GACHA (CLACK)

ER, UH, OH, UH...

FATH— I MEAN, UNCLE!

PARDON ME.

ER... IS NOW A GOOD TIME?

NO.

I DID NOT WAIT LONG.

GREAT!

HEYO! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

IT BELONGS TO YOU. TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.

MY LITTLE SISTER... YOUR MOTHER WORE THIS WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE.

LET'S GO, THEN!

I WILL, UNCLE.

AND I'M... NOT USED TO THAT.
TOWN'S GONNA BE CROWDED, RIGHT?
HRM ...
WE ARE NOT IN TOWN YET.
I'M JUST GETTING READY!
I—
YEAH ...
I SEE.
PRE-PARED-NESS IS IMPOR-TANT.

SAY ...

UH ...

WHAT IS IT?

UM...

Y'KNOW ...

THIS DRESS ...

...UH, LOOK ?

HOW'S IT...

IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

AT LEAST, I THINK SO.

HEH HEH!

OKAY, MAYBE NOT.

LIKE AN ARISTOCRAT ON THE TOWN WITH HER BODYGUARD?

I WONDER HOW WE LOOK TO THEM...

...SO MAYBE IT'S NOT THAT FAR OFF?

AND I'M THE NIECE OF A LANDOWNER...

BUT...HE IS A SILVER-RANKED ADVENTURER.

HEE HEE!

OH, NOTHING.

I WAS JUST WONDERING WHERE YOU'D TAKE ME FIRST.

FAR OFF FROM WHAT?

I HAVE NOT YET EATEN BREAKFAST.

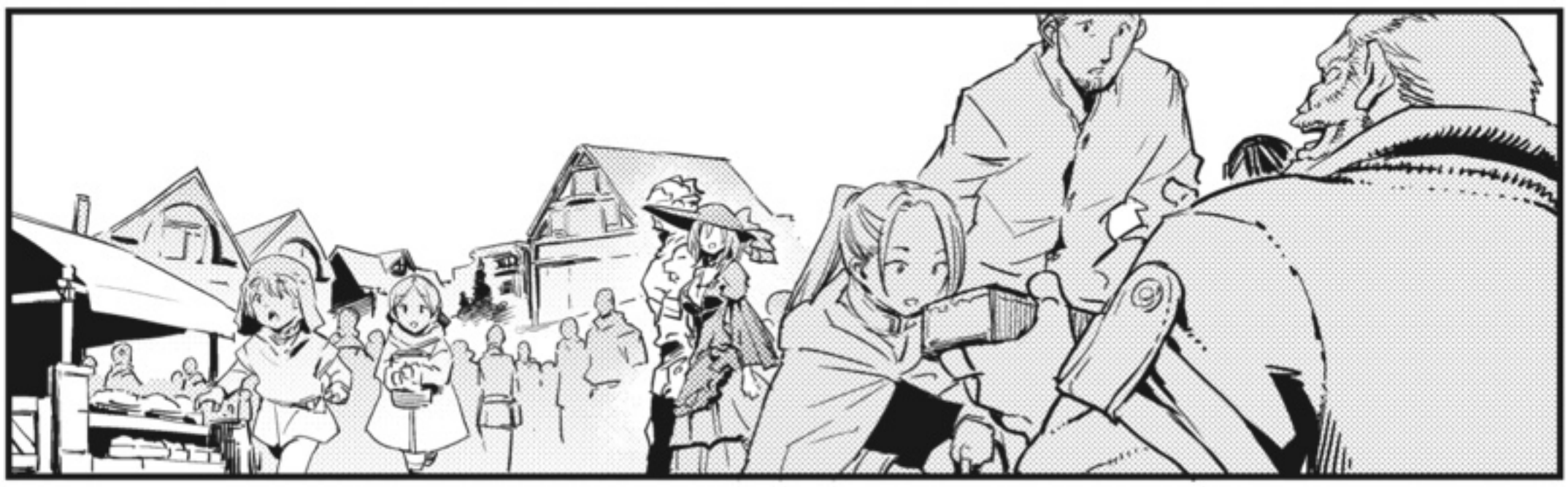
OH...

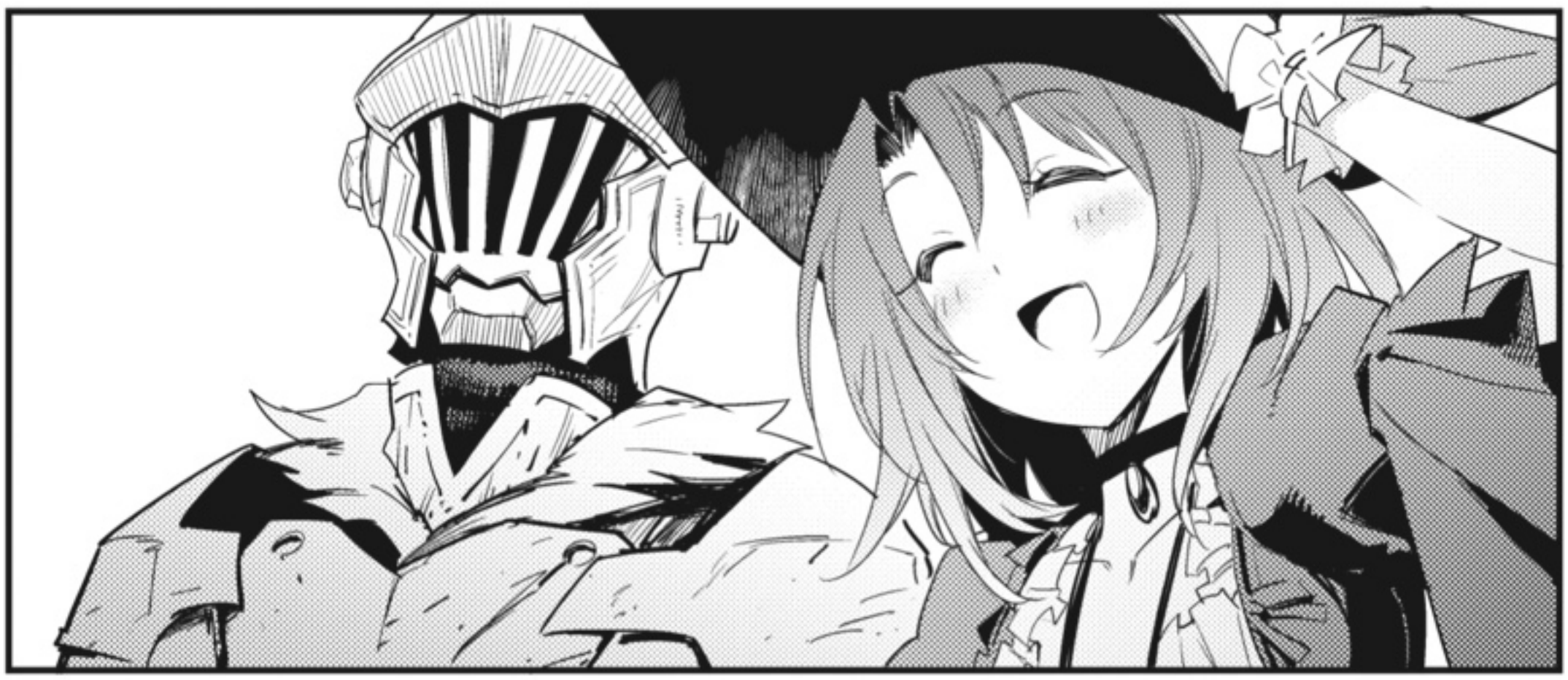
SORRY, UNCLE...

LET US FILL OUR STOMACHS AT ONE OF THE STALLS.

YEAH.

SOUNDS GOOD.





SURU (SLIP)

HRM ...

WAIT HERE A MOMENT.
HUH? SURE...

OR WOULD I HAVE JUST DIED, MAKING HIM THE ONLY ONE LEFT?
...WOULD I HAVE SEEN WHAT HE SAW? SURVIVED WITH HIM?
IF I HAD STAYED IN THE VILLAGE THAT DAY...
AS FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM IN THE FIVE YEARS BEFORE THAT, AFTER OUR TOWN WAS DESTROYED, I HAVE NO IDEA.
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE HE BECAME AN ADVENTURER AND WE WERE REUNITED...

I WOULD HAVE...

...HATED THAT...

OR WOULD HE HAVE DIED, LEAVING ME...

...THE ONLY ONE...

I AM SORRY FOR THE WAIT.

...I BELIEVE YOU USED TO LIKE THINGS LIKE THIS.

WHEN WE WERE LITTLE...

...BACK IN THE VILLAGE ...

IT'S OKAY.

SO WHAT'S GOING ON?

KUSU (GIGGLE)
くす。

IS THAT SO...?
HA HA HA HA!
YEAH! TEN YEARS AGO!

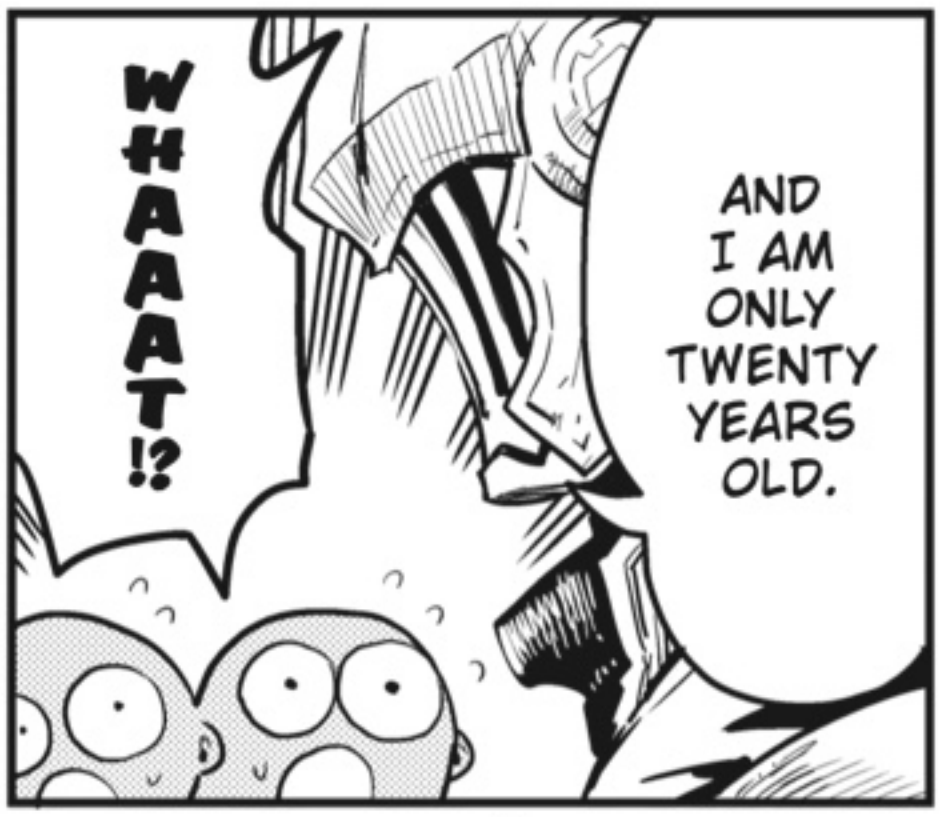
BUT ...
I SEE...
...I GUESS I DO STILL HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR THEM.
MM.

UH-HUH!

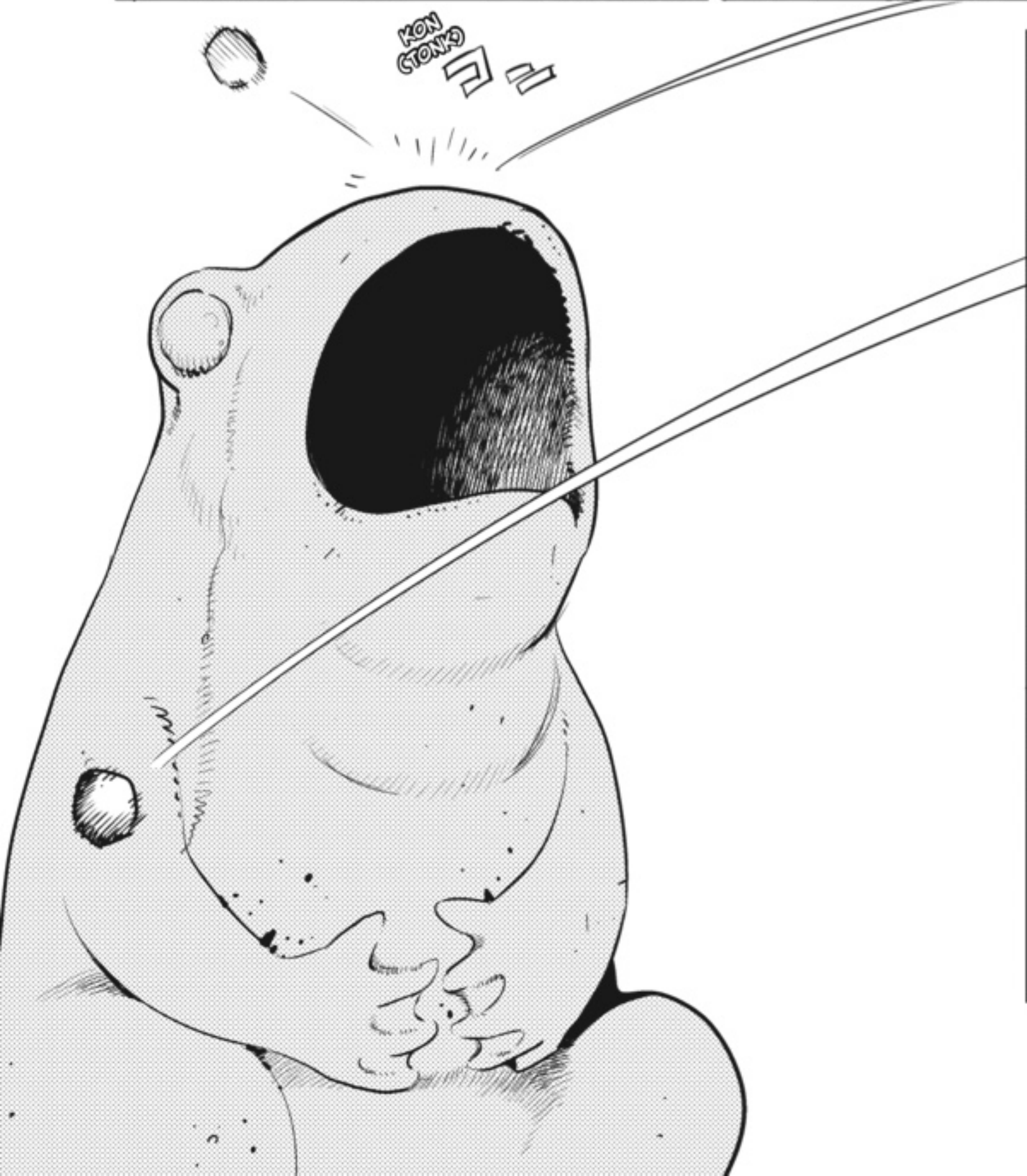
...IS THAT SO?

LET'S GET MOVING.

OH, BE A LITTLE MORE POLITE ABOUT IT!
WAIT A— WHOA! ARE YOU ON A DATE WITH THE FARM GIRL, POPS!?


WHAAAT!?
AND I AM ONLY TWENTY YEARS OLD.

IT IS NOT A DATE.
WELL, I WONDER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?


KON CTONKO

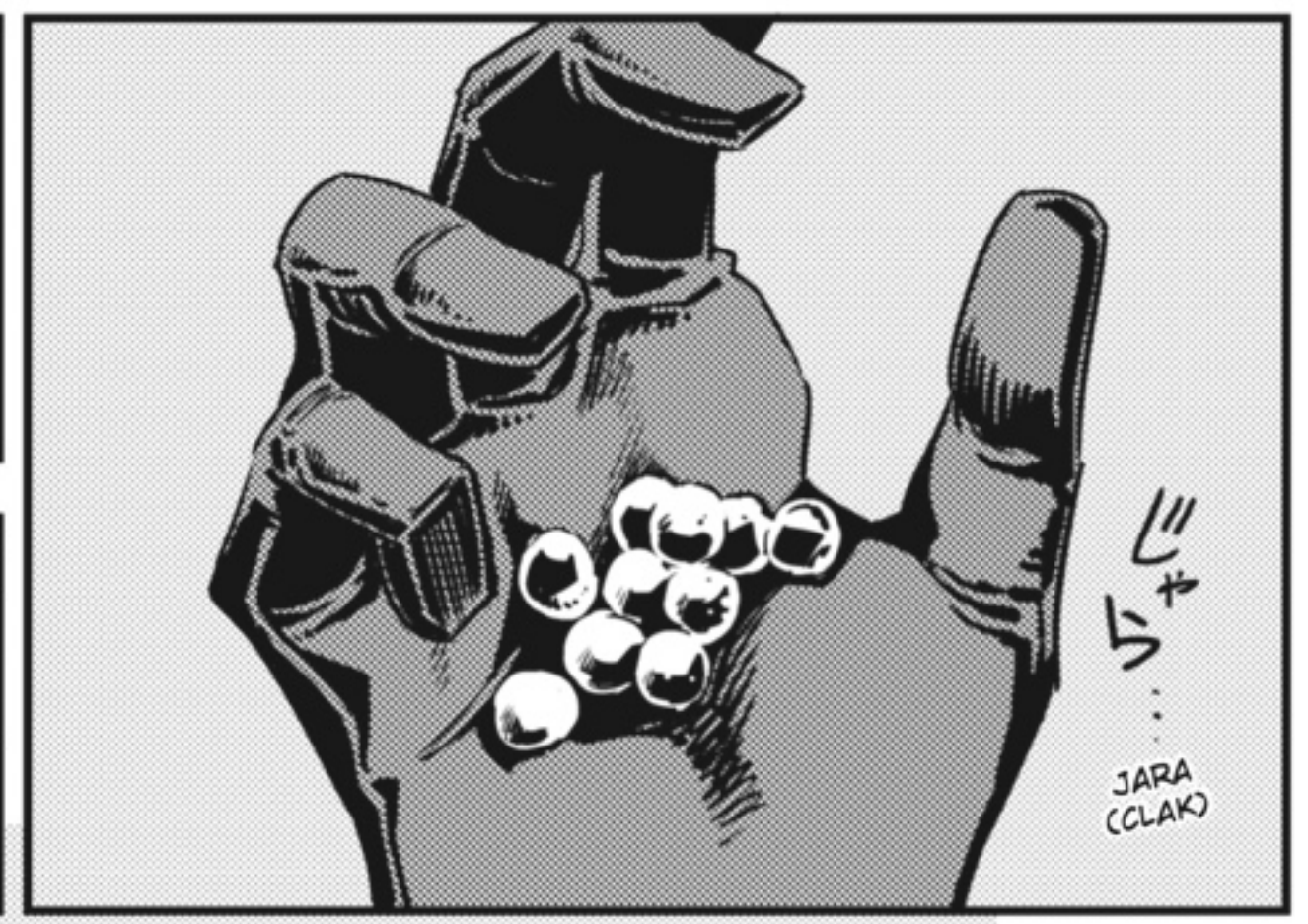
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?
THAT.

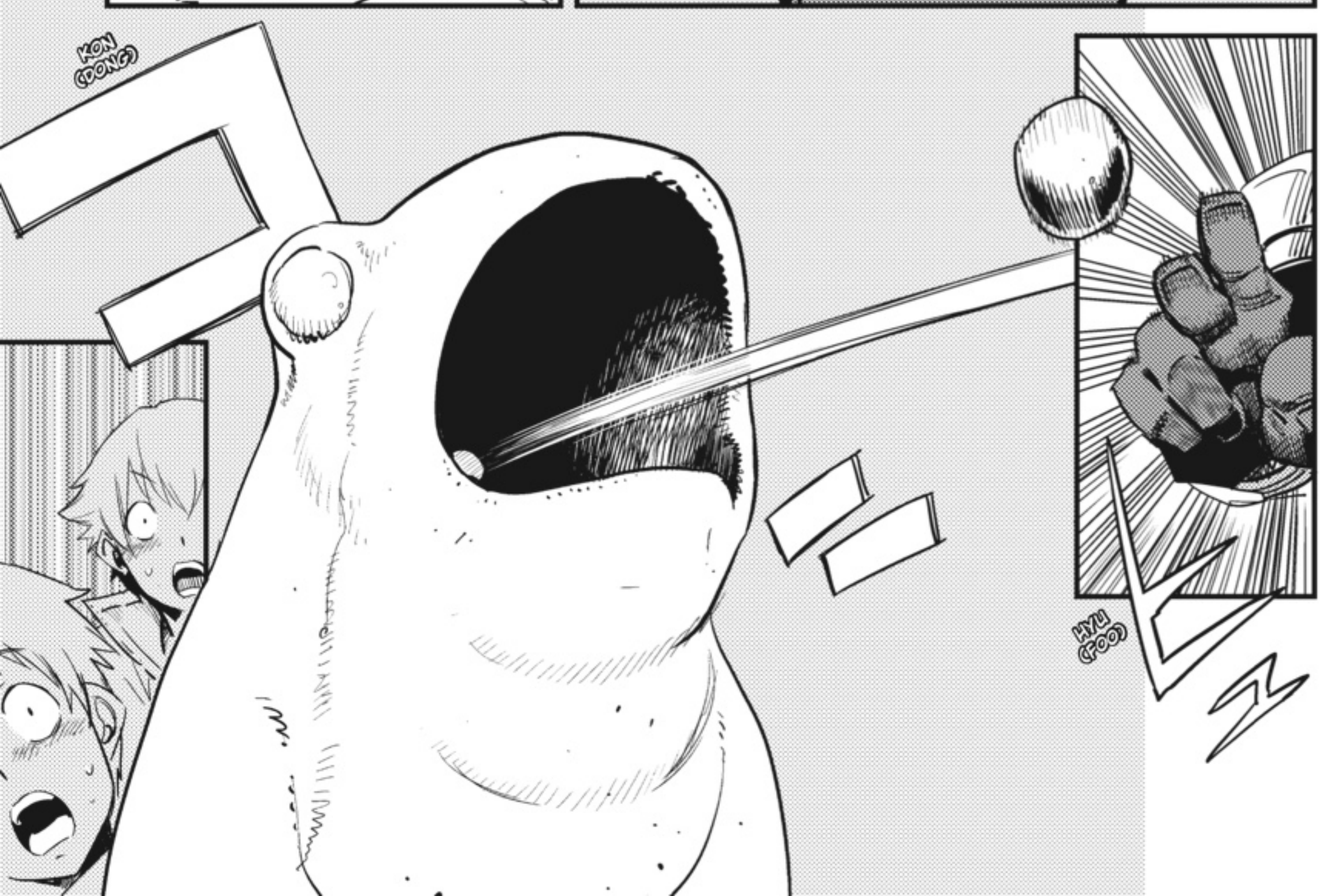
OR FOR THE LITTLE ONES, A LEMONADE!
SINK A BALL, GET A MUG OF ALE!
STEP RIGHT UP! TEN BALLS FOR A COPPER!
AHHH, SO CLOSE!
THEY'RE BOTH TOTALLY INTO IT.
A BALL TOSS, HUH?
I THINK THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH THESE BALLS!
ARGH, DARN IT!
HEY —
YOU WERE ALWAYS GOOD AT THIS SORT OF THING, RIGHT?
UGH, BOYS— WHO NEEDS 'EM?

WE HAVE A TAKER!
SIR.
HERE'S MY COPPER.

MM.
...SOME-ONE TO IMITATE?
GIVE THEM ...

CAN YOU REALLY DO THAT WITH YOUR HELMET ON, MISTER?


じゃら...
JARA (CLAK)


KON (DONG)
HYU (FOO)

HYU (FOO)
HYUN (FWOO)
KON
KON
KON
KON
KON (DONK)
WOOO OO!
JARA (JINGLE)
...IS THAT... HOW YOU SHOULD THROW THEM.
I CANNOT.
GOSH, SIR, GO EASY, WHY DON'T YOU...?
HEH!
YEAH, HE'S REALLY SOME-THING!
ISN'T THAT GOBLIN SLAYER?

AND ANOTHER.

YESSIR, SIX LEMONADES.

...YOU WANT ONE?

SURE, THANKS.

DO...

LEMONADES FOR THEM.

PRACTICE.

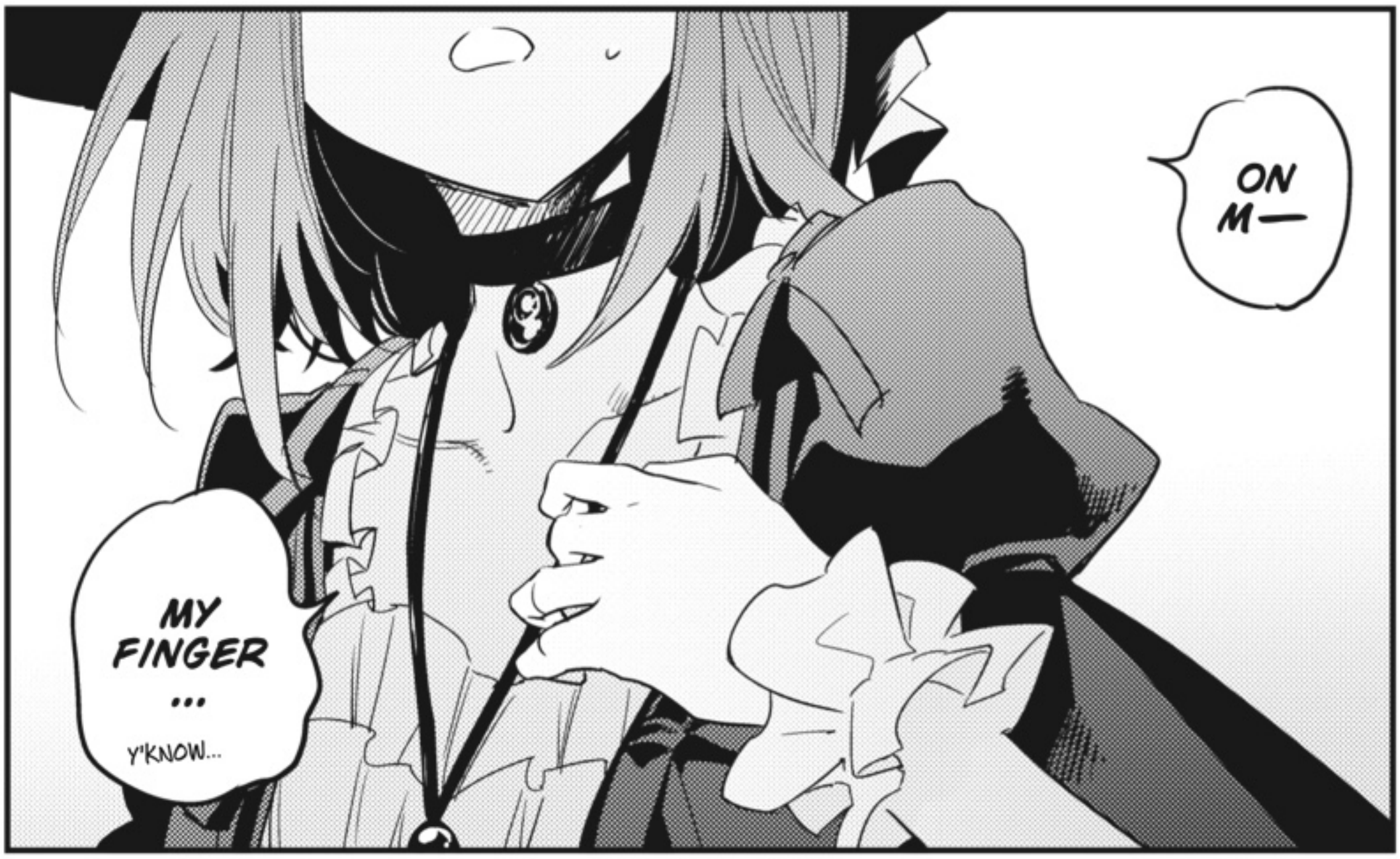
—SOME TRICK TO IT?

ISN'T THERE —

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

OH, HEY...
HOW ABOUT YOU PUT THIS ON FOR ME?
THE RING.

ER...
PUT IT ON WHERE?

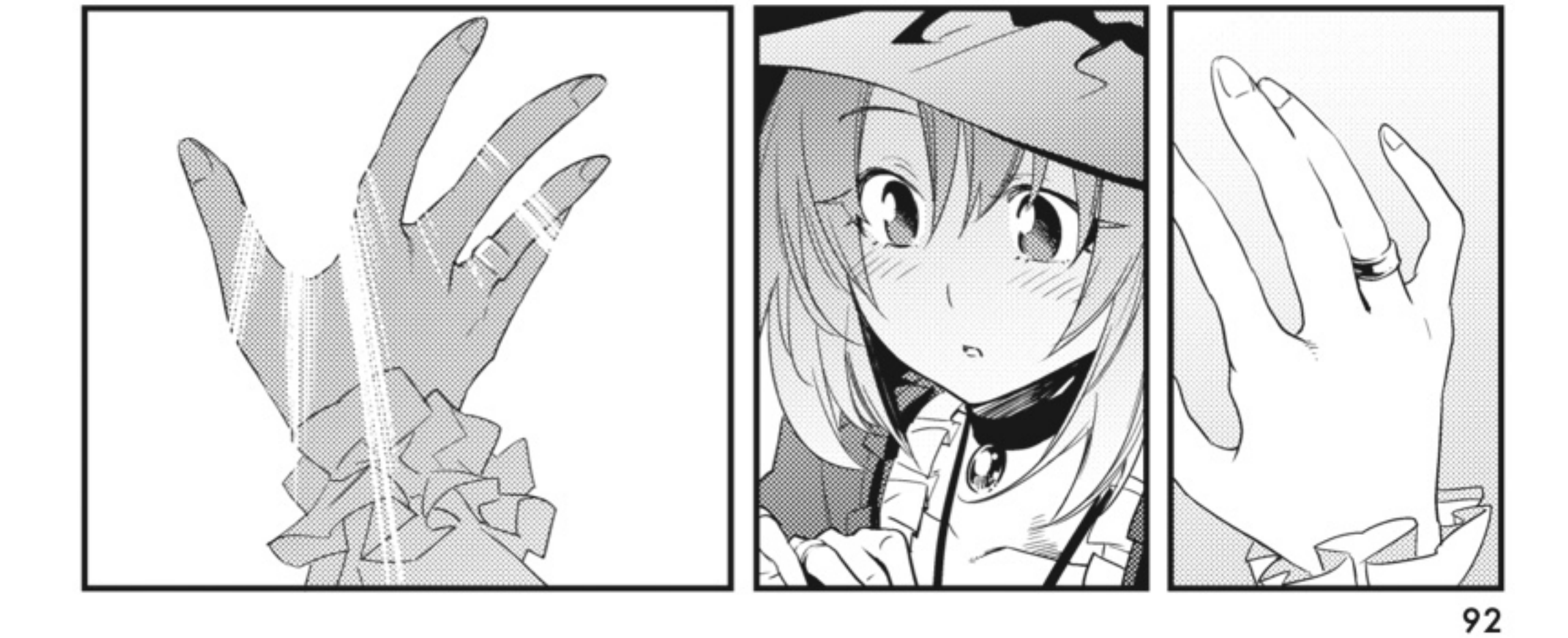

ON M—
MY FINGER ...
Y'KNOW...

WHICH ONE?

WHICH ONE?
I MEAN ...

H-
HERE...
ON MY
RIGHT
HAND...

ぐいっ



THEN HE SAYS...
...'I SEE.'
.....'SAY 'HI' TO THE RECEPTIONIST FOR ME.'

I BELIEVE OUR HONORED RECEPTIONIST HAS HER TURN THIS AFTERNOON, YES?
FAR BE IT FROM ME TO FAVOR ONE AGAINST THE OTHER...
WE'VE FINALLY FOUND A USE FOR THOSE BIG EARS OF YOURS.

PARDON ME, O HOSTESS!
YES, SIR!
EH, THE WORLD HAS A WAY OF SEEIN' THINGS THE WAY THEY OUGHTA GO.
...BUT I HOPE ALL GOES WELL FOR HER.

I CAN'T STAND IT...

GOBLIN SLAYER

GACHA
(CLANK)
ガチャ

YES.

DID YOU ENJOY YOURSELF THIS MORNING?

IT'S NO PROBLEM.

I JUST GOT HERE MYSELF.

I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.

CHAPTER 34

I...

...ENJOY WAITING.

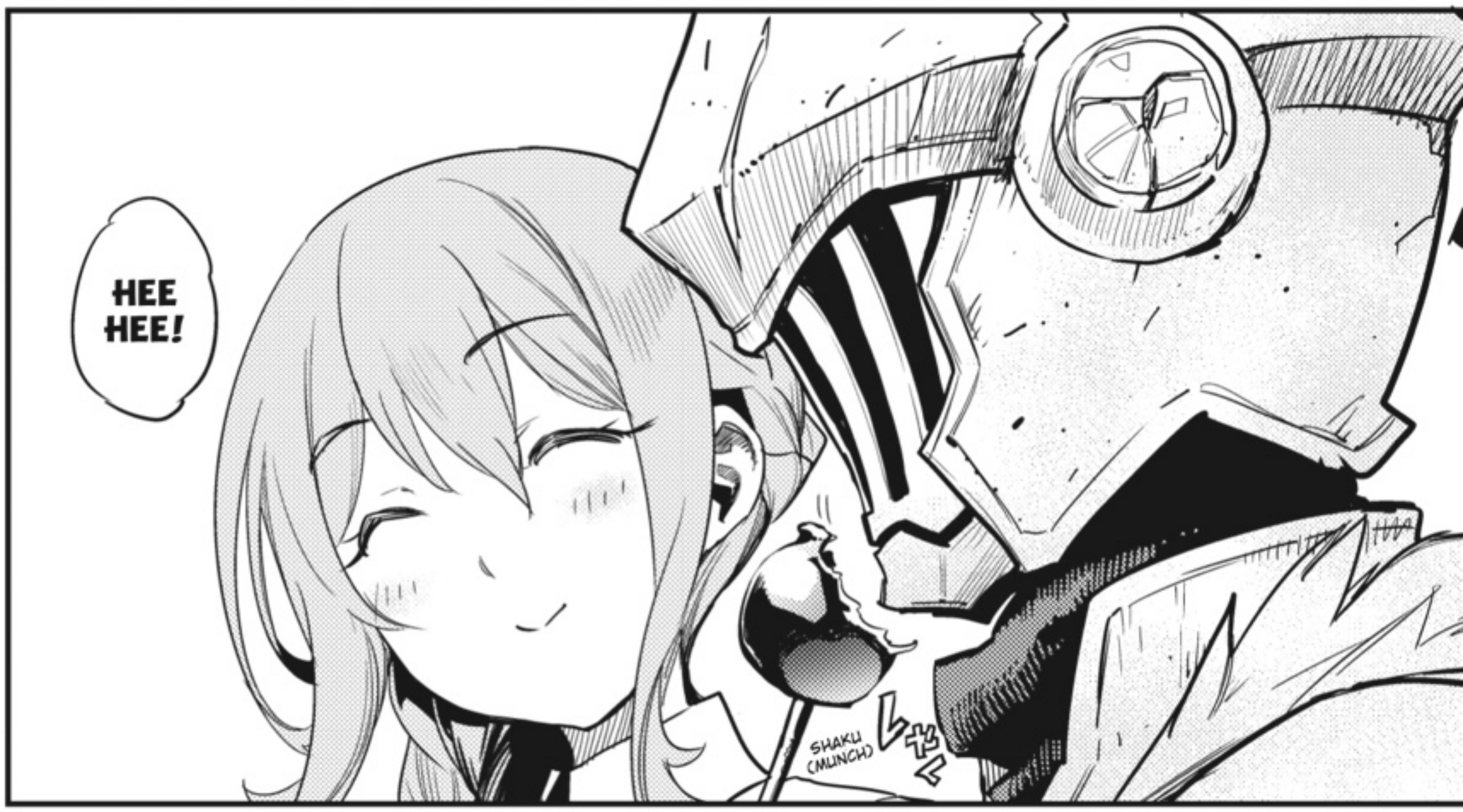
ER...

ACTUALLY, AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO REASSURE YOU, YOU ARE A LITTLE LATE, GOBLIN SLAYER.

I'M SORRY.

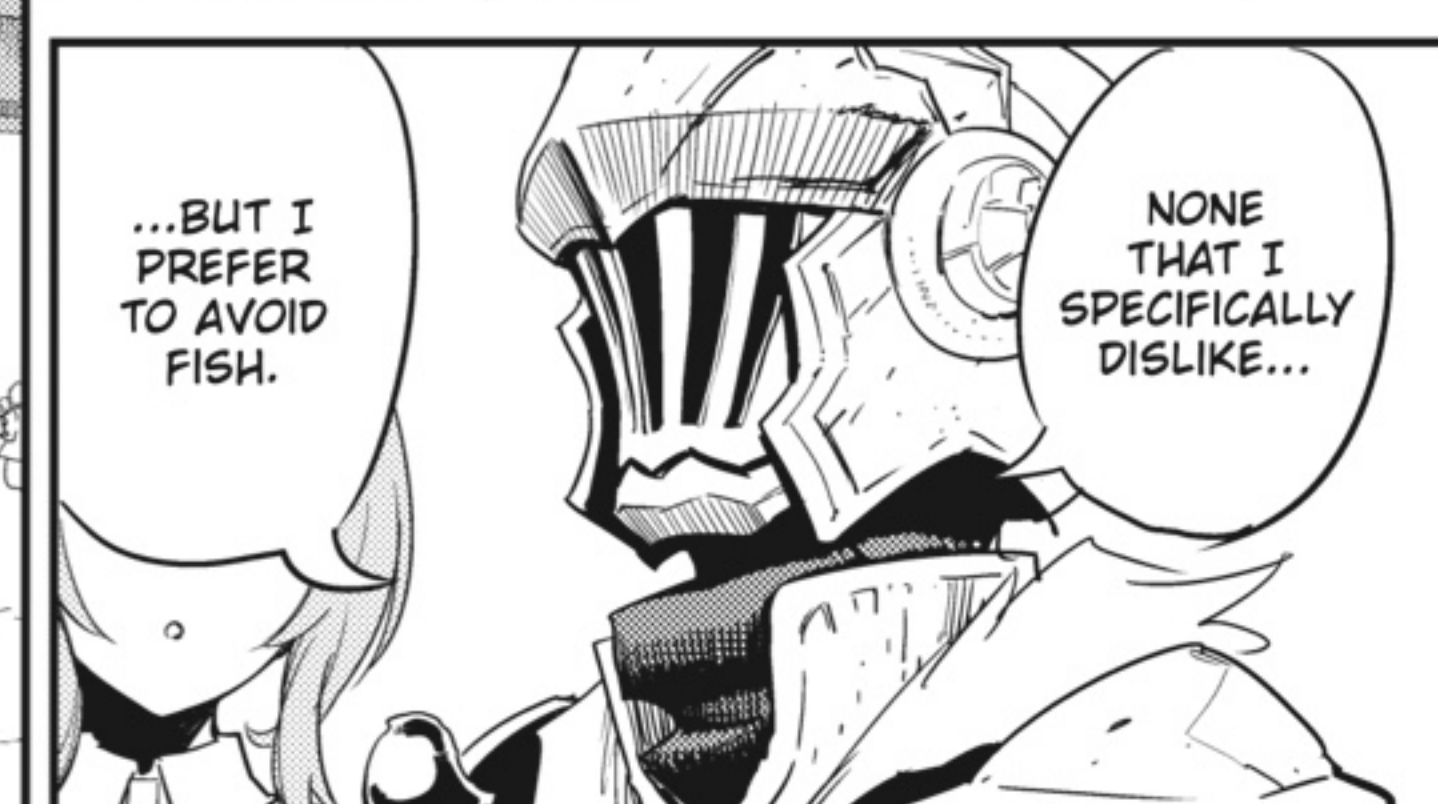
IT'S ALL RIGHT, REALLY.

SO. SHALL WE GET GOING?


HEE HEE!
SHAKU (MUNCH)

THEY ARE EASY TO OBTAIN IF YOU CAN FIND A RIVER, BUT SUCH AREAS BREED BUGS AS WELL. AND THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF FOOD POISONING.
FISH? REALLY?

IS THERE ANY FOOD YOU ESPECIALLY DISLIKE, GOBLIN SLAYER?


...BUT I PREFER TO AVOID FISH.
NONE THAT I SPECIFICALLY DISLIKE...

ONCE, WE HAD SOME ADVENTURERS WHO BOUGHT SMOKED FISH AS PROVISIONS ...

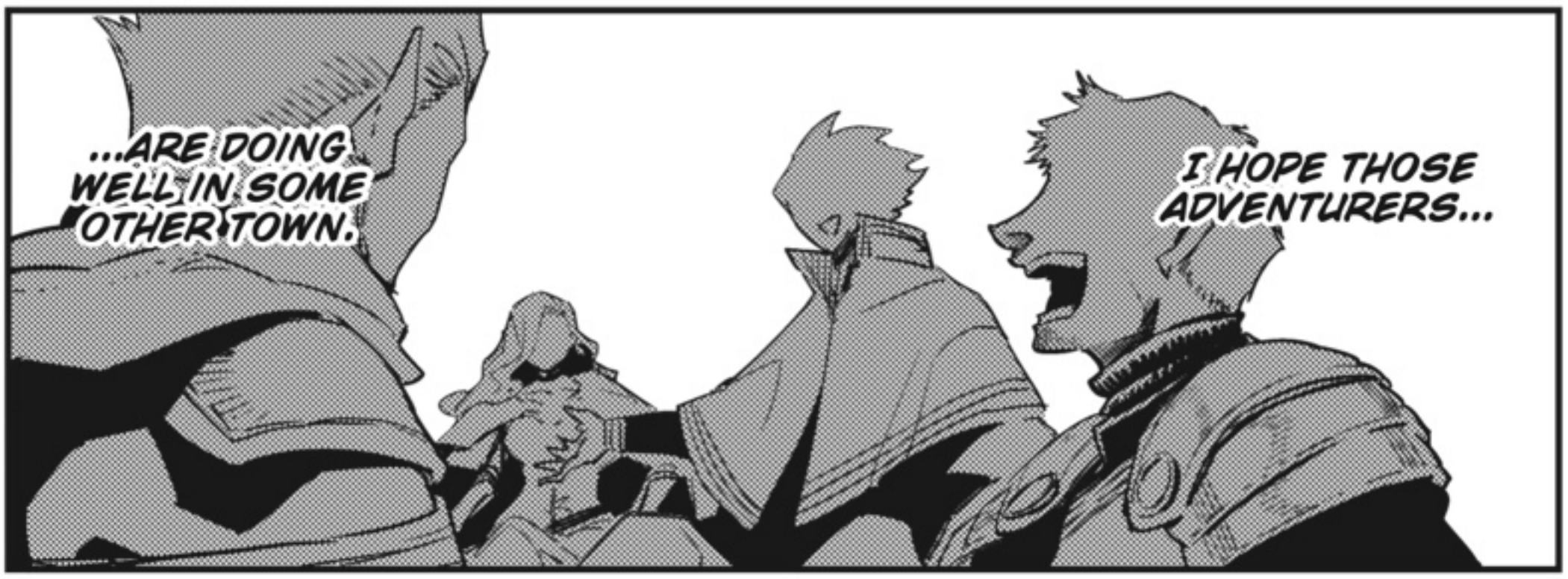
I SEE.

...AND THEY MADE A BIG DEAL OVER WHETHER THEY SMELLED OR NOT.

AND THEY STINK.

AH...

NOW THAT, I UNDER-STAND.



MM...

THIS RIVER GOES ALL THE WAY TO THE SEA.

YES.

AND FLOWS FROM THE MOUNTAINS.

DON'T WORRY, I'M FINE...

THE STREETS WERE CONFUSING.

IT IS IN A GOOD DEFENSIVE POSITION ...

...BUT IF ANYONE GOT INSIDE, THEY WOULD BE HARD TO TRACK.

BUT THERE'S NOT AS MUCH OF IT AS IN THE WATER TOWN.

HOW DID YOU LIKE THAT CITY ANYWAY?

YES.

YOU ARE CORRECT.

WE'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL THAT NO GOBLINS GET INTO THAT CITY...OR THIS ONE.

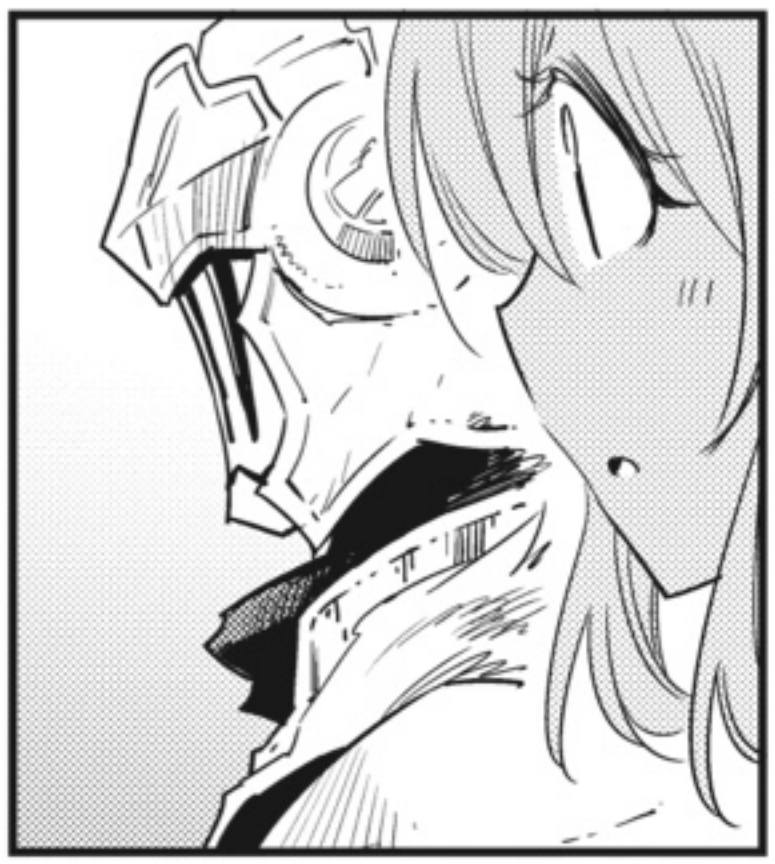
OH ...

WHERE SHOULD WE GO NEXT?

HEE HEE!

BOU
(FWOO)
PA
(POOF)
WOW!
GU
(SQUEEZE)

BASA (FLUTTER)



I'VE HEARD THAT'S HOW EVERY SLEIGHT OF HAND WORKS.

THE MAN FIRST DRAWS OUR ATTENTION WITH THAT GESTURE ...

...AND EXPLOITS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET UP HIS TRICK.

IT IS A FORM OF PSYCHO-LOGICAL WARFARE.

BUT ONCE THE AUDIENCE IS CONVINCED THE GESTURE IS JUST A DISTRACTION ...

...HE MAKES IT THE KEY TO THE TRICK.

UH, WELL...

BUT THEN AGAIN...

HE'S SO SERIOUS AND STUBBORN— NOT TO MENTION OBSESSIVE AND AWKWARD...

BUT I ONLY KNOW THE ADVENTURER SIDE OF HIM.

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S REALLY LIKE UNDERNEATH THAT.

...I'VE ONLY EVER SHOWN HIM THE RECEPTIONIST SIDE OF MYSELF.

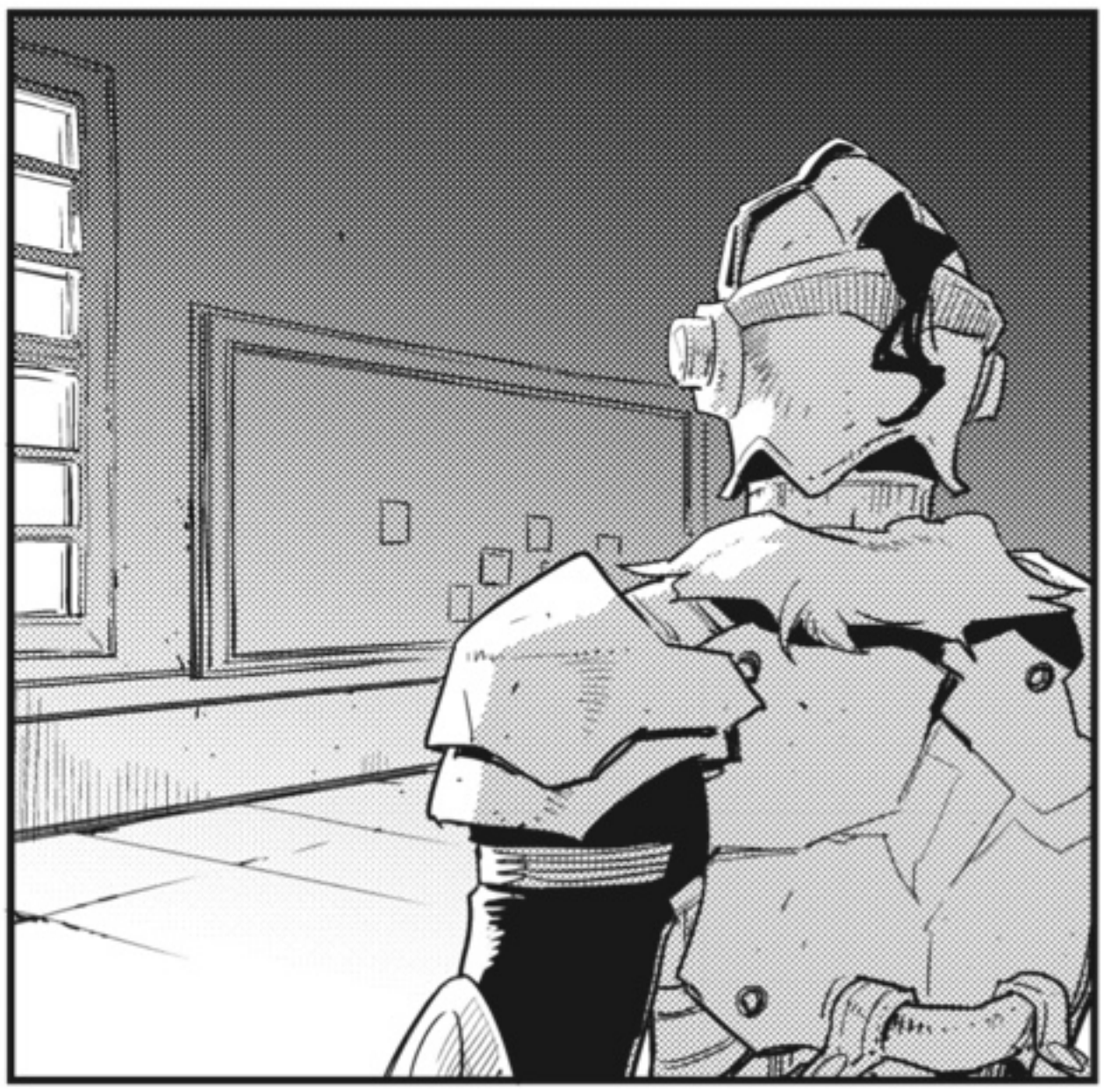
THERE'S SOMEWHERE I'D LIKE TO GO.

WOULD YOU COME WITH ME?

I BET YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN THE GUILD HALL WHEN NO ONE ELSE WAS HERE BEFORE.

I HAVE NOT.

KII (CREAAAK)



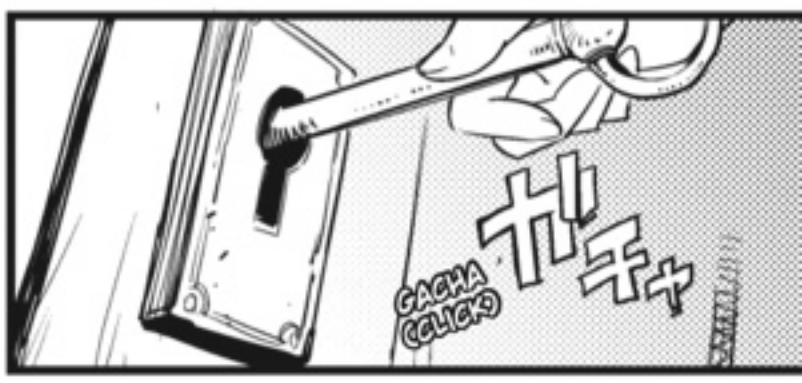
NO GOBLIN QUESTS... OF COURSE.
キラーw
KIRAAN (SPAAARKLE)
GOBLIN SLAYER!
I'M READY!
OVER HERE—
LET'S GO!
THAT AREA IS FOR STAFF MEMBERS.
AM I ALLOWED?
ABSO-LUTELY NOT.

IT'S UP HERE.

COME ON!

THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THIS A SECRET.

CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?



GI (CREAK)

GI

HEH-HEH. ENJOYING MY SKIRT?

KEEP YOUR EYES FORWARD.
OTHERWISE, YOU WILL FALL.

SURE, SURE!

WOULDN'T YOU CATCH ME?

PERHAPS, BUT EVEN SO.

HERE ...
THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO SHOW YOU.
COME HERE.
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
...SHOW ME?
UH-HUH.

SO ...
...BET YOU DIDN'T EXPECT THIS.

EVEN DURING THE FESTIVAL!

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING WATCH.

EVEN NOW.

EVERY DAY.

ALWAYS.

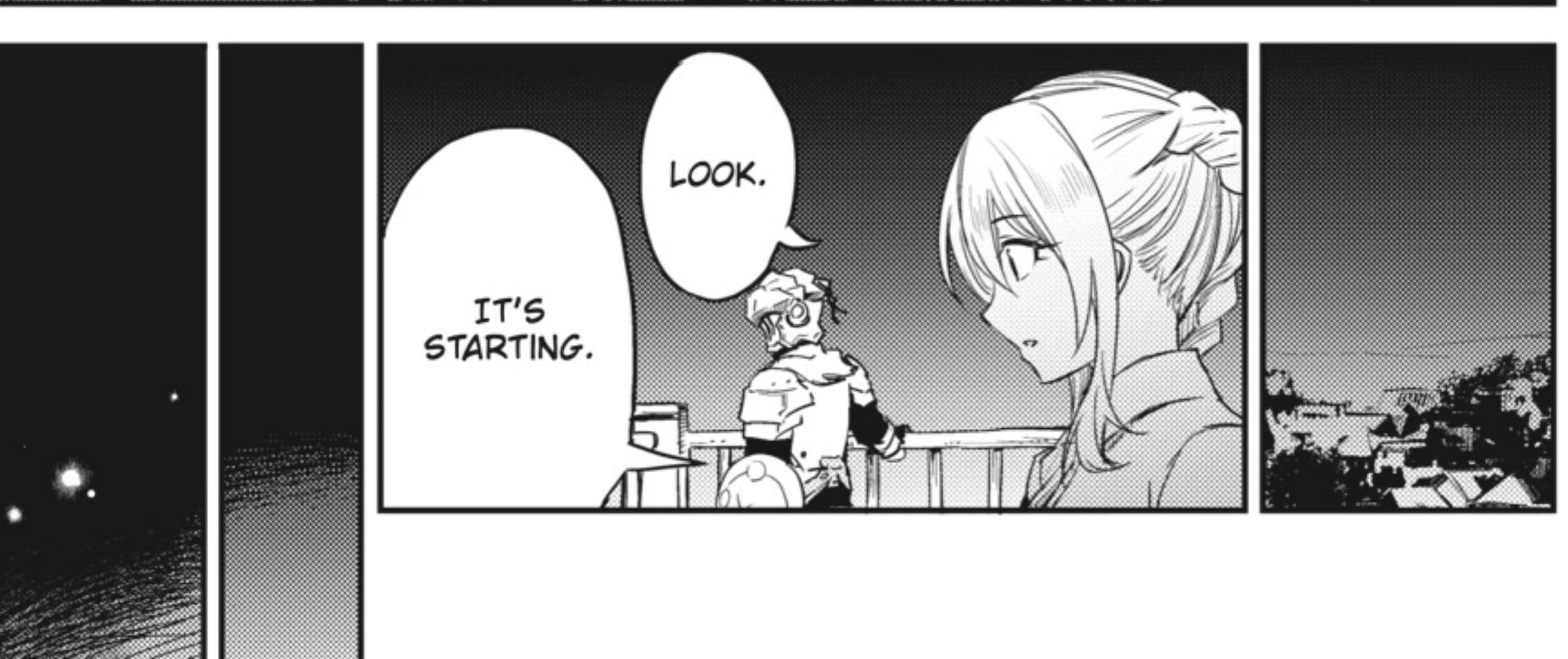
...

I'M... NOT SURE IT DOES.

DOES THIS MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?

EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE HUNTED SO MANY GOBLINS?

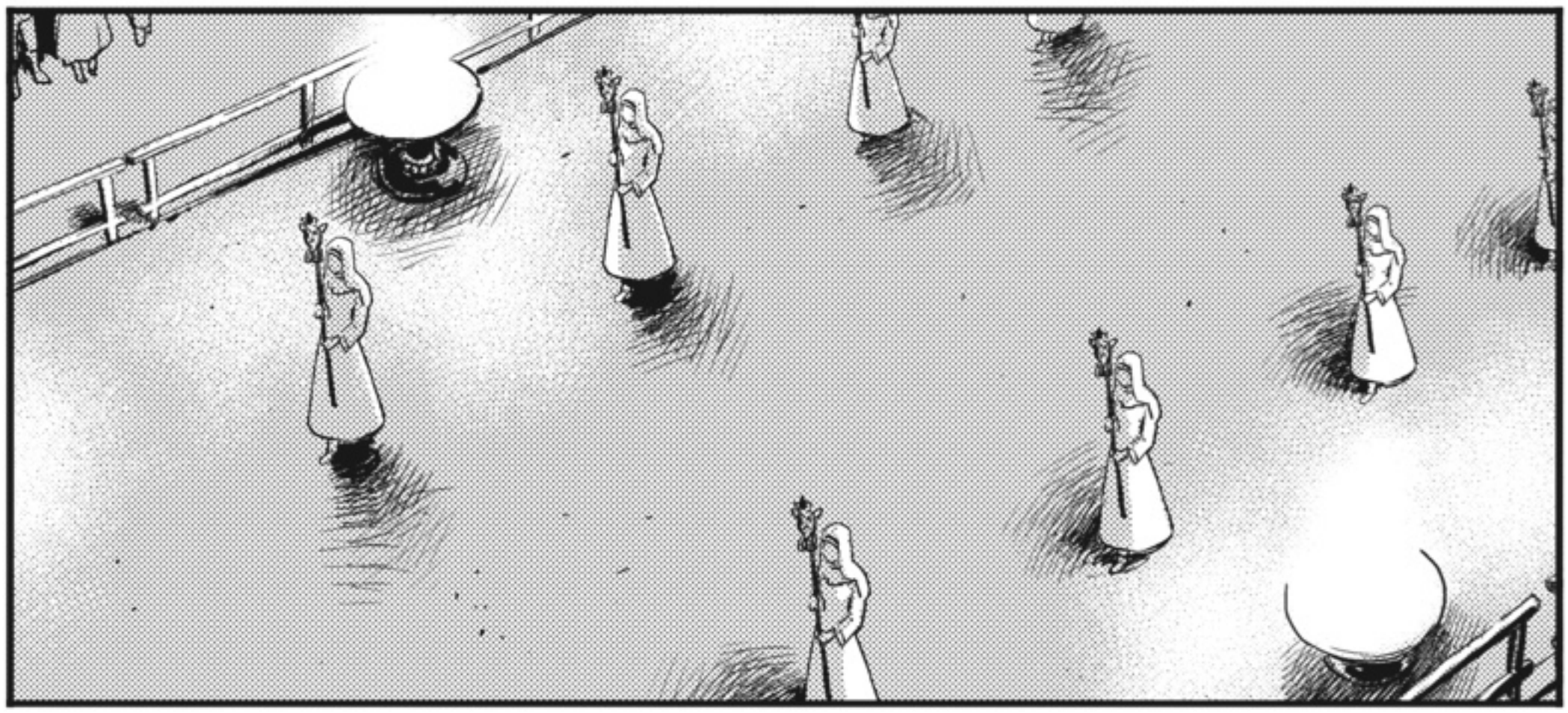
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M UNEASY.

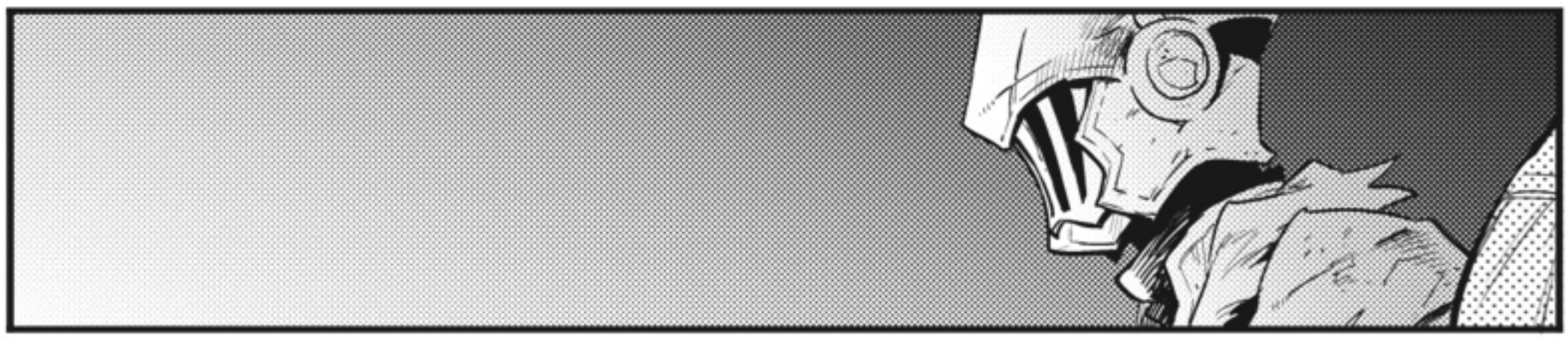


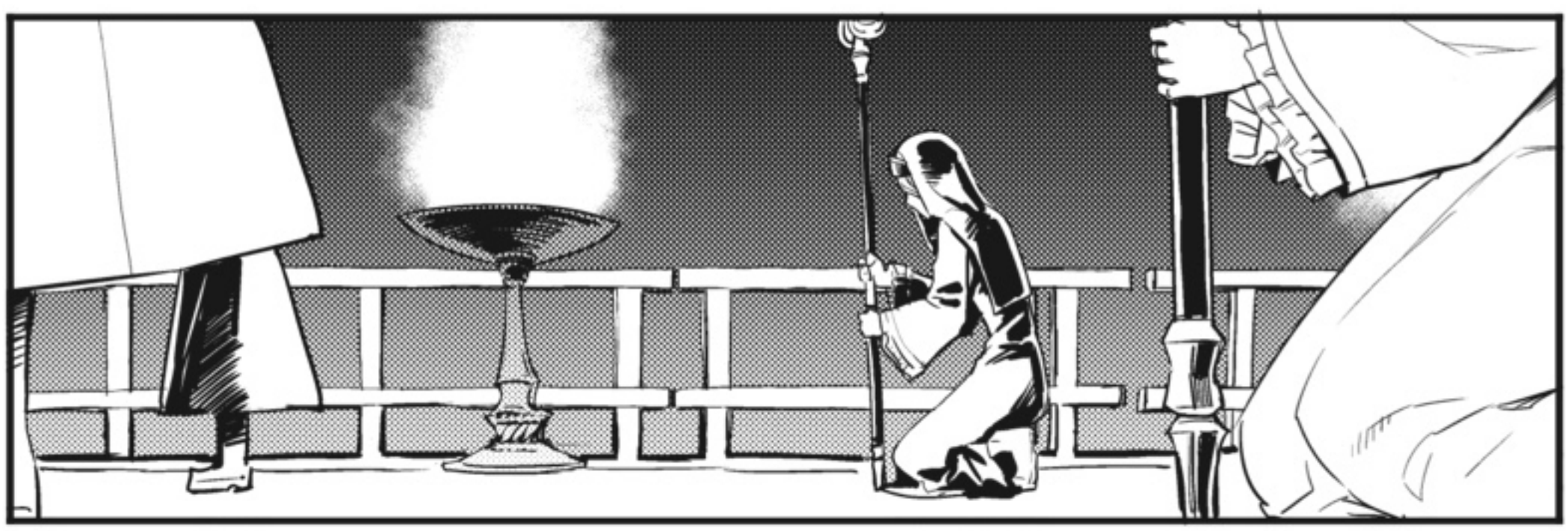
SKY LANTERNS.
YES. THEY LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL FROM HERE.

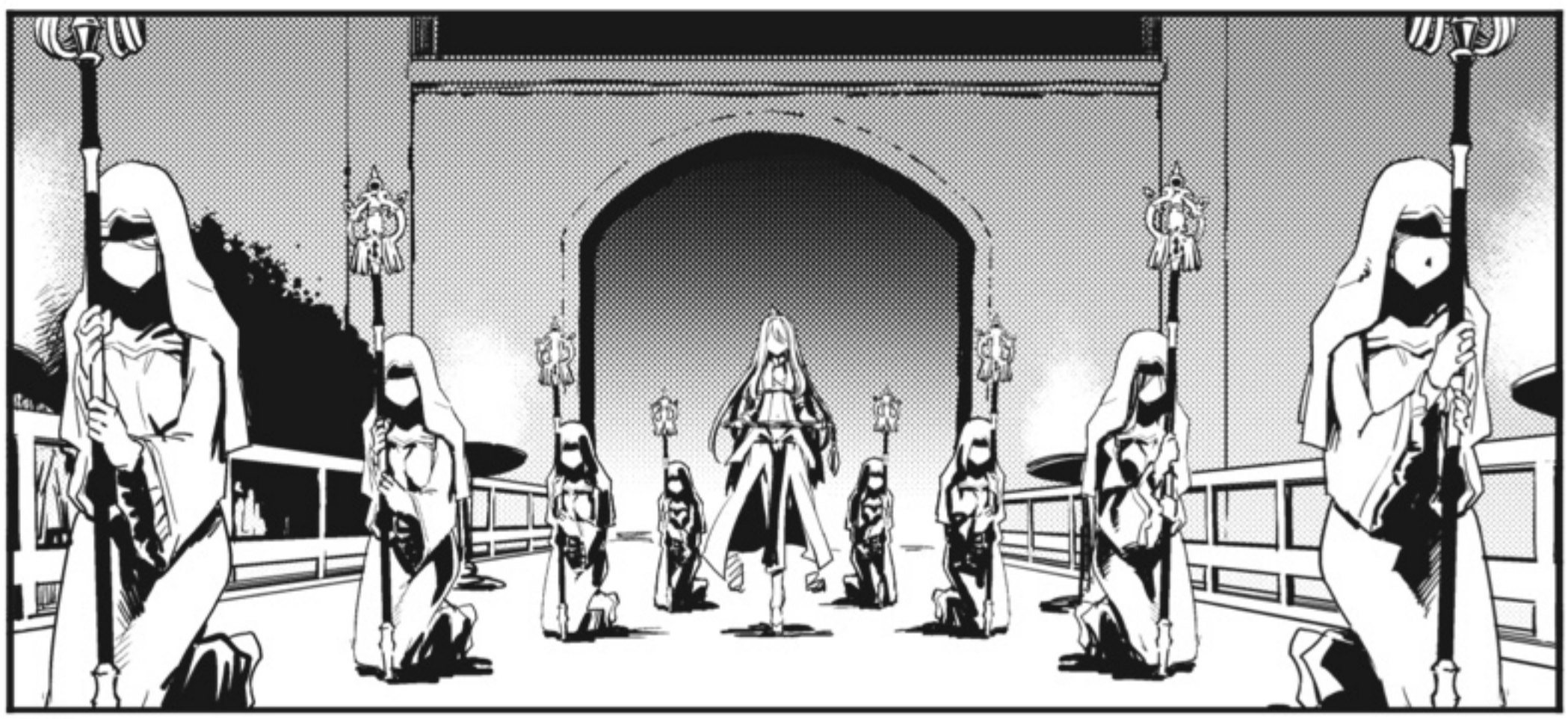
OH ...
IS IT THAT TIME ALREADY?
SHAN (CLINK)
ミーナ
GOBLIN SLAYER, YOU—

SHAN
(CLINK)
SHAN







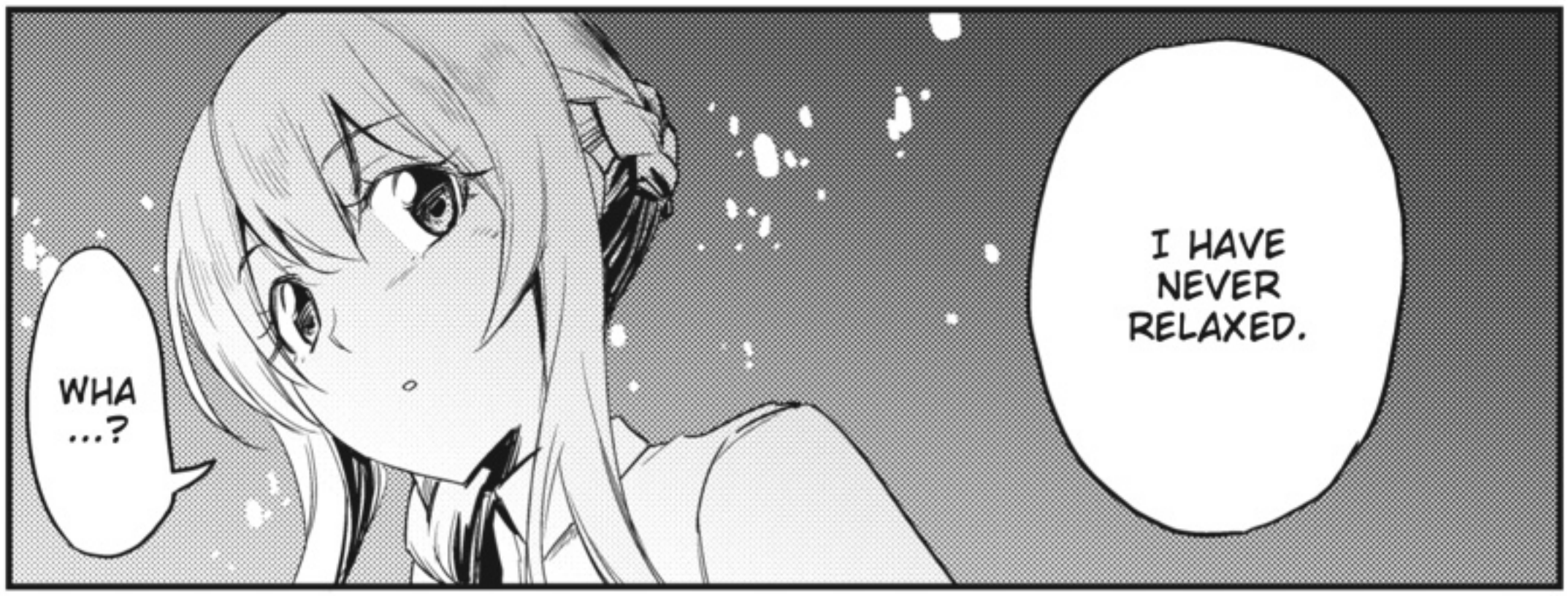


CHAPTER 35

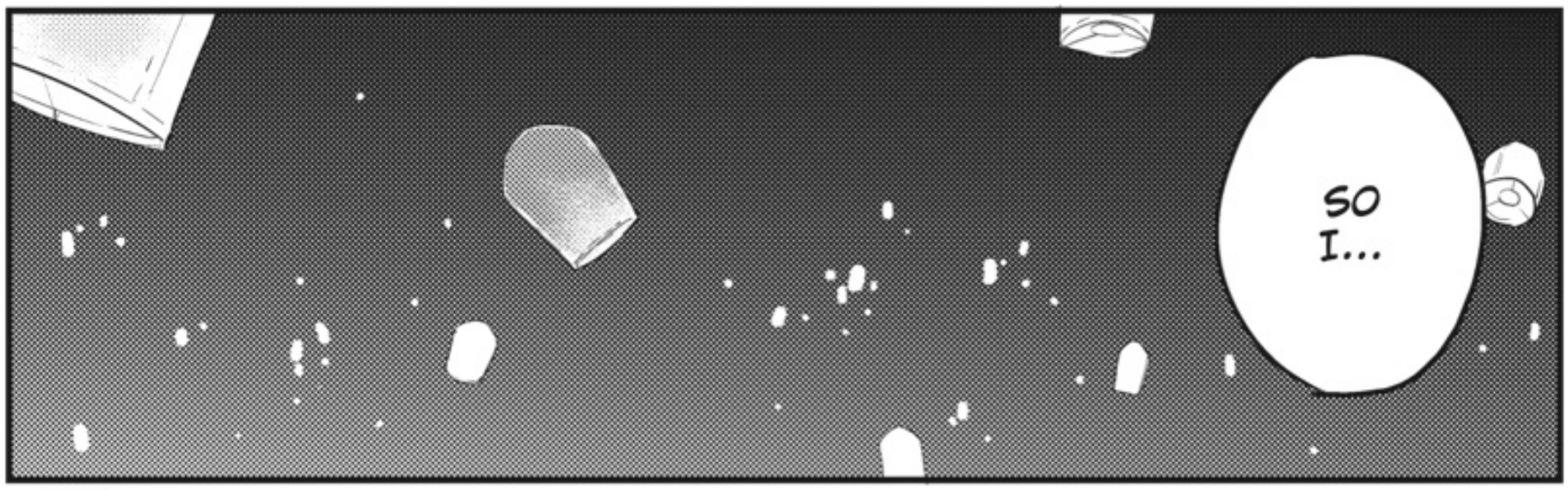
O EARTH MOTHER, WE BESEECH YOU...
AS YOU WILL, BE IT MY WILL...
...BY THE PIPS OF THE DICE OF FATE AND CHANCE...
O GODS WHO GATHER AT THE TABLE OF THE STARS...

O GREAT, O ETERNAL, O WIDE, O DEEP LOVE...
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING.
I OFFER THIS BODY, TIRELESSLY, UNHESITATINGLY...
WE OFFER YOU THIS PRAYER...
ARE YOU GETTING NEW EQUIPMENT?
ER— UH...
I'LL KEEP IT TO MYSELF, THEN.

AND LET IT BE THUS UPON YOUR BOARD
...

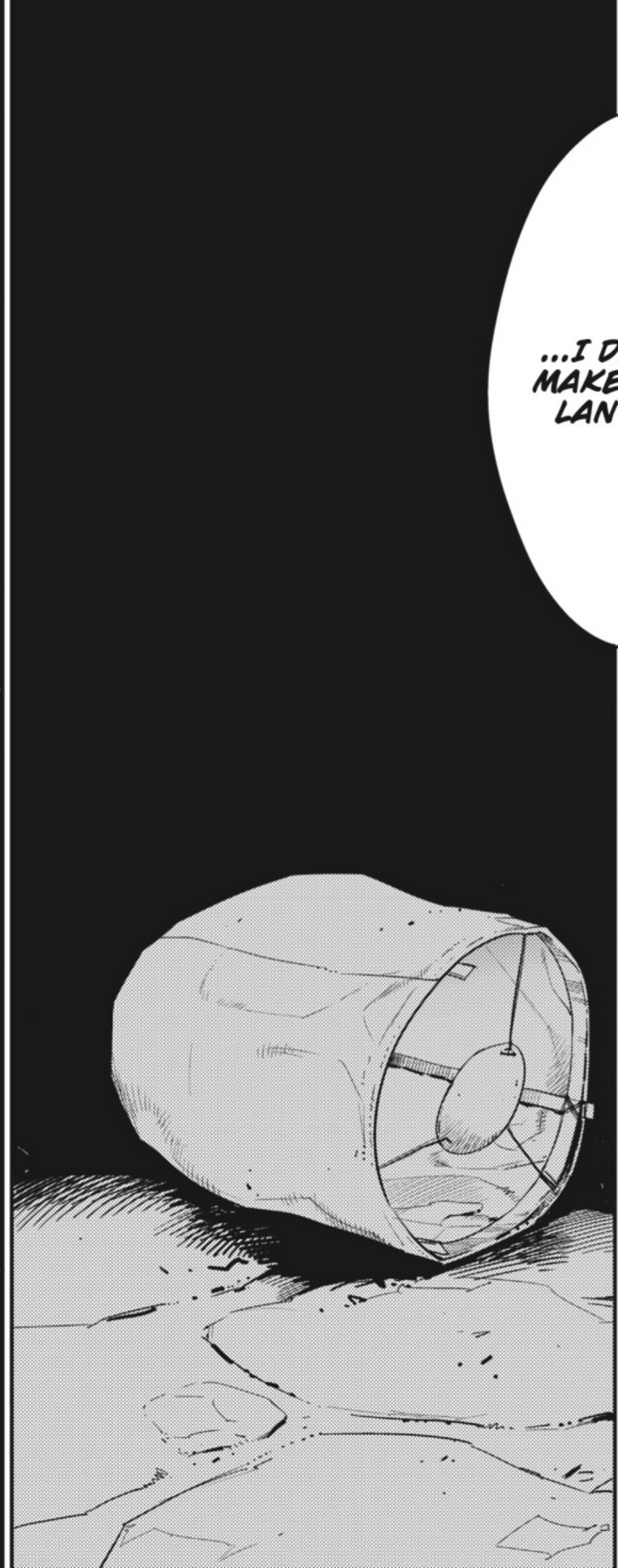


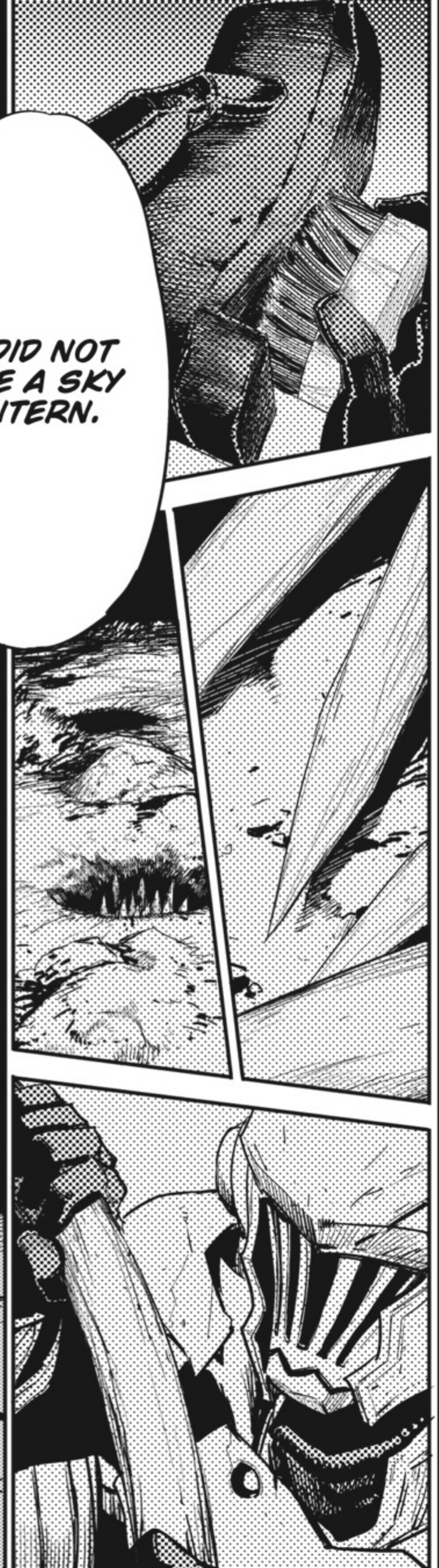
THE SPECTER OF DEFEAT IS ALWAYS WITH ME. NEARLY UPON ME.

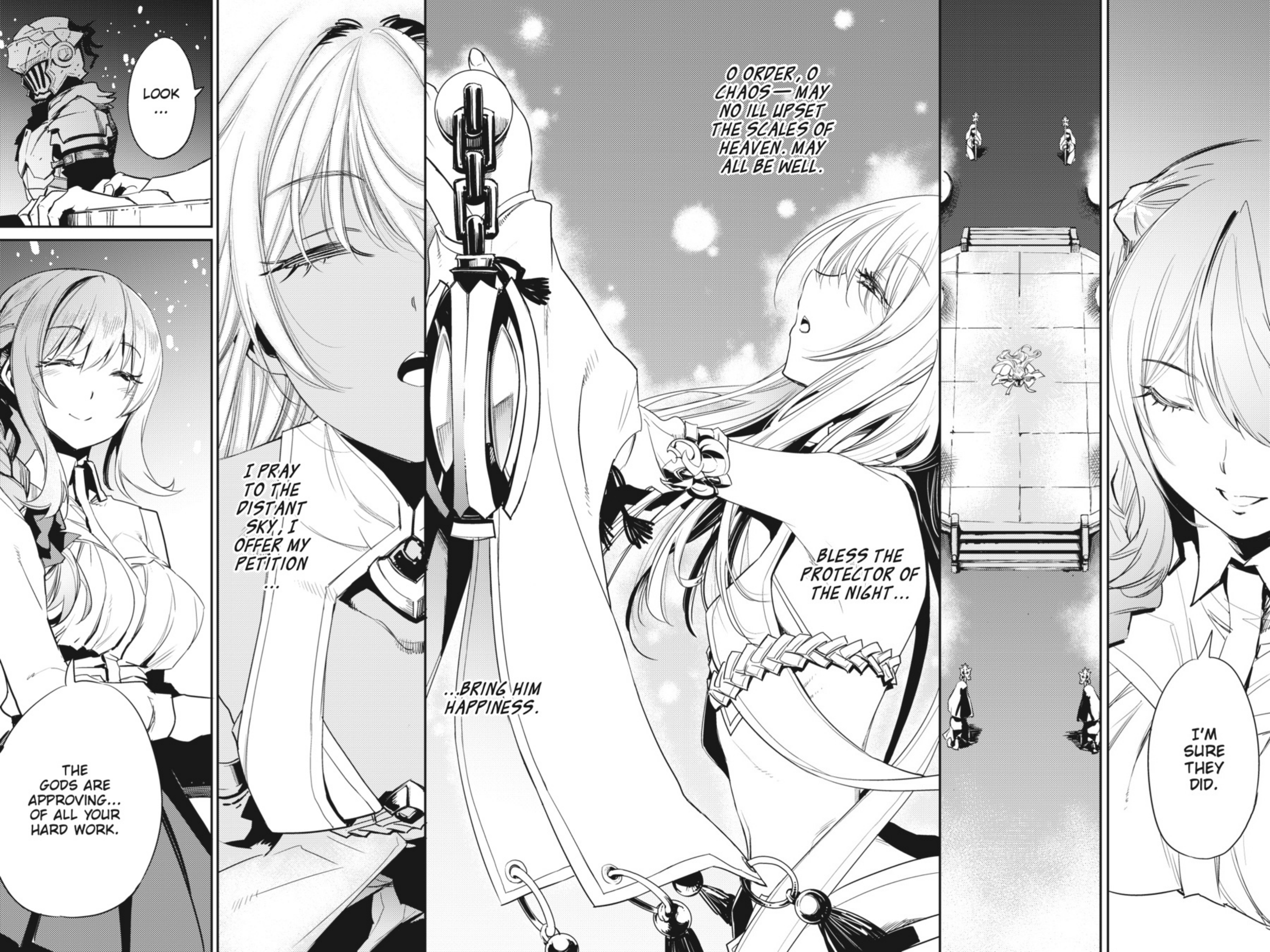


THE LANTERNS ARE GUIDES FOR THE SOULS OF THE DEAD.

...I WONDER IF THEY MADE IT HOME SAFELY.




...I DID NOT MAKE A SKY LANTERN.


LOOK ...
THE GODS ARE APPROVING... OF ALL YOUR HARD WORK.
I PRAY TO THE DISTANT SKY. I OFFER MY PETITION ...
O ORDER, O CHAOS—MAY NO ILL UPSET THE SCALES OF HEAVEN. MAY ALL BE WELL.
BLESS THE PROTECTOR OF THE NIGHT...
...BRING HIM HAPPINESS.
I'M SURE THEY DID.

THEY HAVE TO BE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE HE BECAME AN ADVENTURER ...

...BEFORE HE BECAME GOBLIN SLAYER.

MAYBE HE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT.

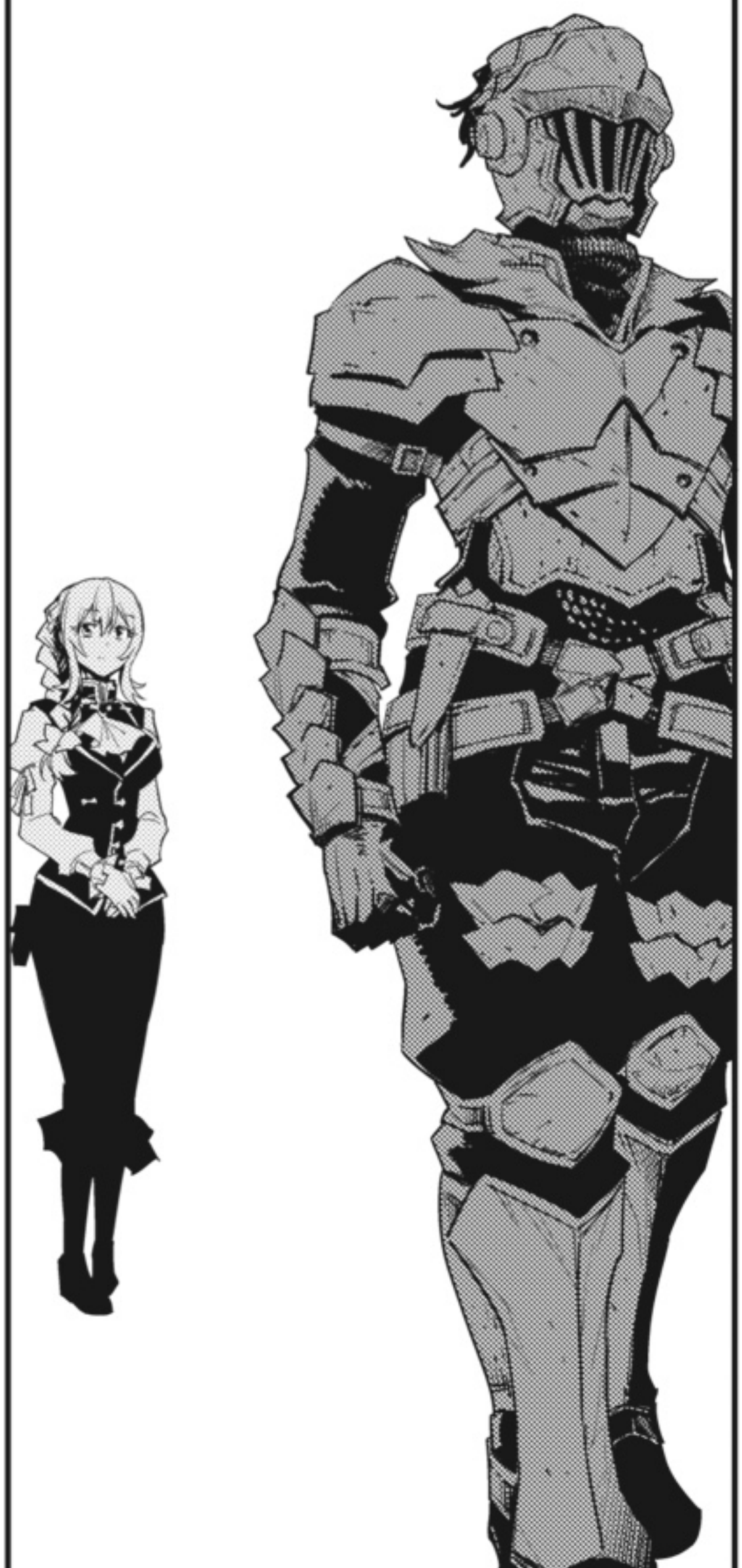
I KNOW ...

...IT WAS TER-RIBLY SELF-ISH.

I...

...CAN HARDLY STAND IT.

BUT I KNOW EVERYTHING HE'S DONE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS LEADING UP TO THIS DAY.



THAT'S WHY...

...I'VE BEEN AFRAID TO FACE THEM AND AVOIDED THEM UNTIL THE FESTIVAL, AND I HATE MYSELF FOR THAT.

IT WAS UNDER-HANDED TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE IN FRONT OF THEM ALL LIKE THAT.

EVEN SO...

STILL...

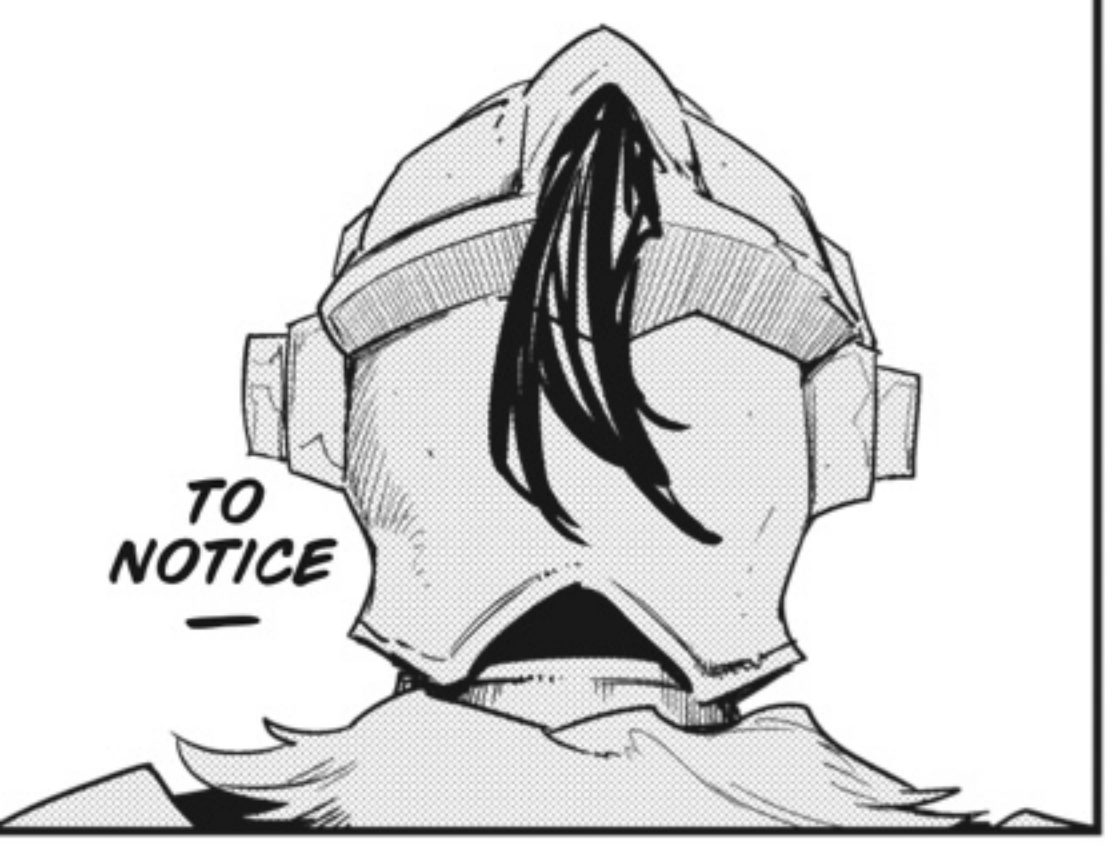
BUT...

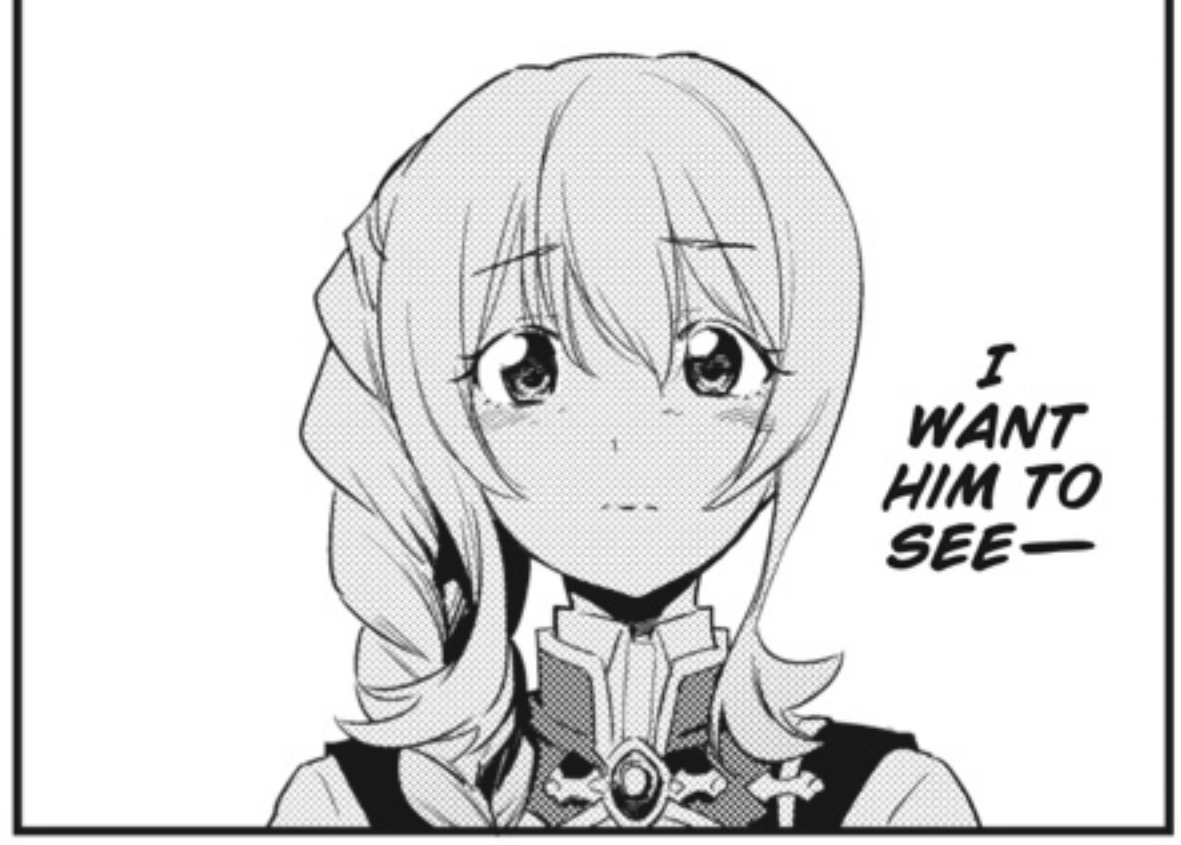
SUPPORTING HIM.

CHEERING HIM ON...

I AM WAITING.

I AM HERE.


TO NOTICE —


I WANT HIM TO SEE—

OTHER THINGS.
ME.
TO UNDERSTAND—

ALL THE PEOPLE WHO AREN'T GOB-LINS.
SOMEONE.
THE DEPTH OF MY FEELINGS IS BEYOND MY COURAGE TO EXPRESS...

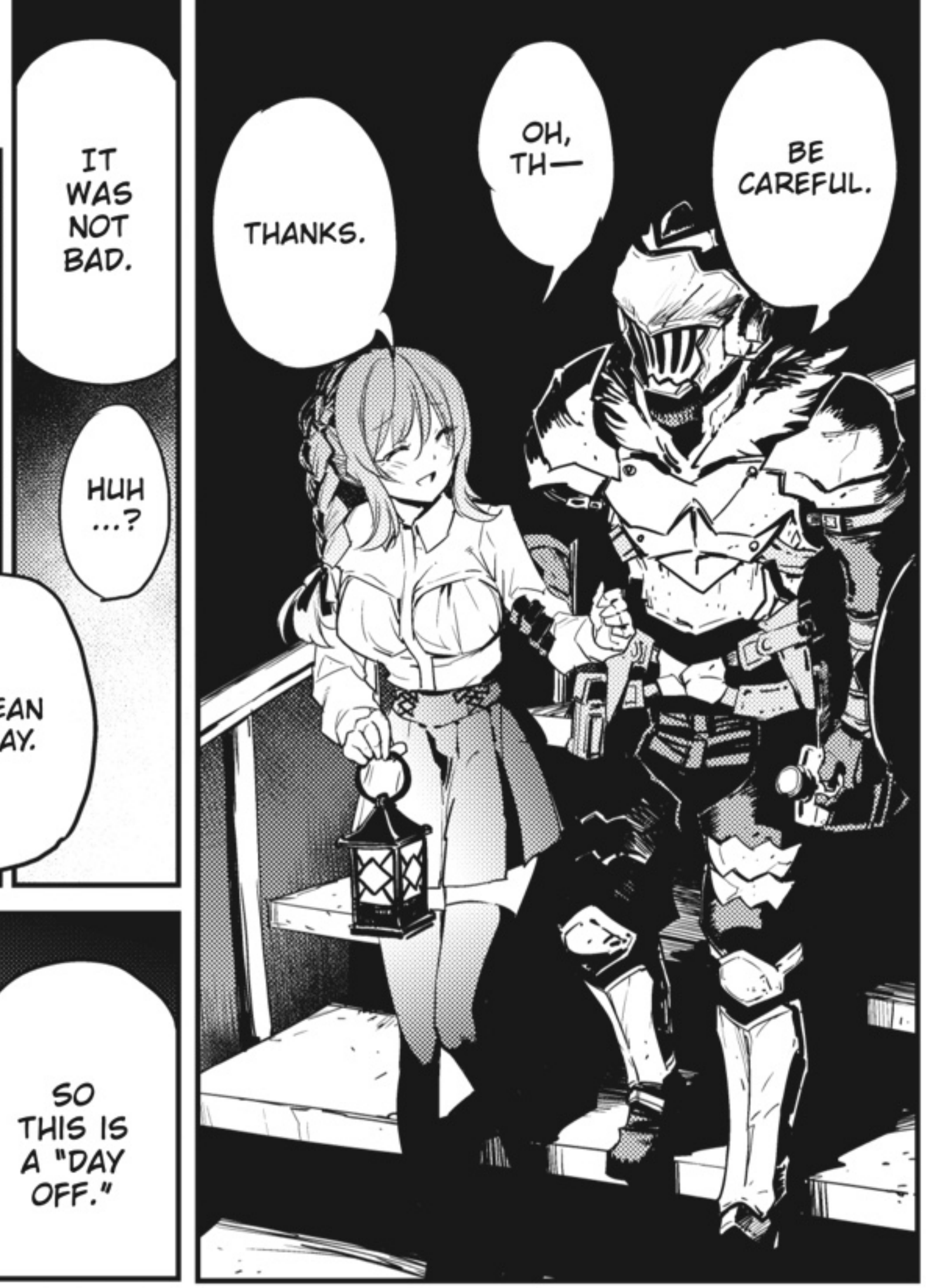
...HE'S COME TO SEE ME.

...BUT MAYBE, AFTER SPENDING AN AFTERNOON TOGETHER...

YES.

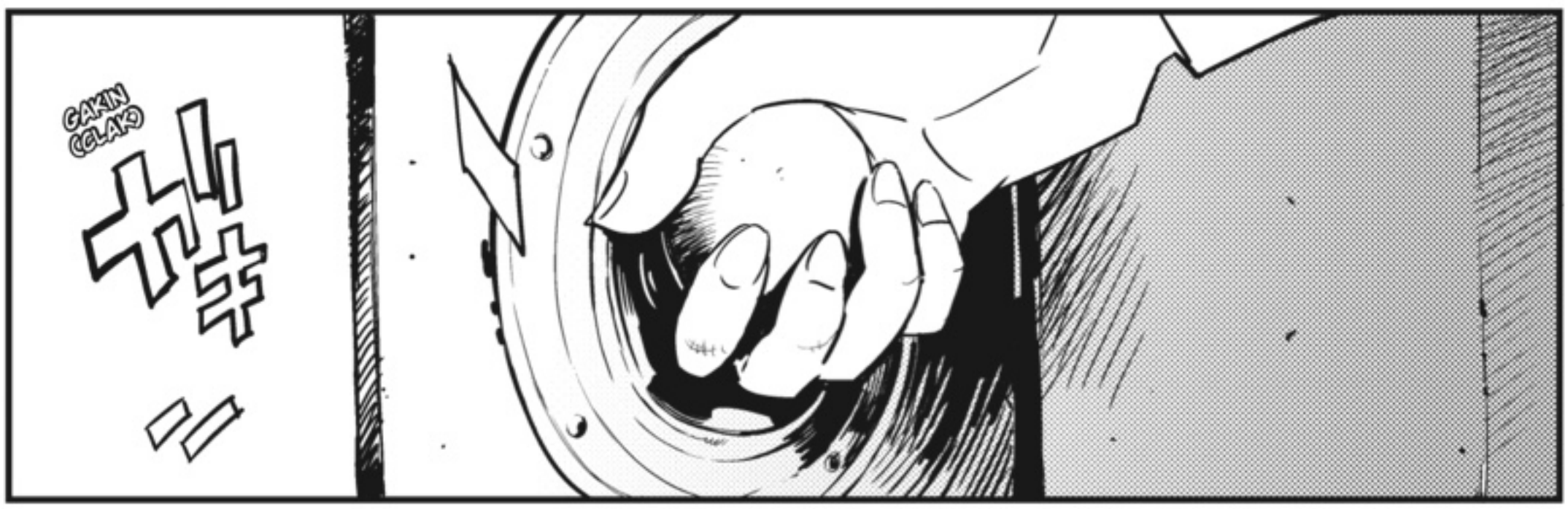
YIPES!
KAAN
カァァン
KAAN (TNK)
カァァン

IT WAS NOT BAD.
HUH ...?
I MEAN TODAY.
OH...


THANKS.
OH, TH—
BE CAREFUL.

SO THIS IS A "DAY OFF."

I SEE.
OH MY.
...THEN THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
IF YOU HAD FUN...


GAKIN (CLAK)

WHAT'S WRONG?
MAYBE I'M IMAGINING THINGS...
HUH ...?

I'M ALMOST SURE I DIDN'T LOCK THIS DOOR...
...BUT IT'S LOCKED NOW.

EEK !?

GABA (SWEEP)

GA (SHCK)

DO (SLAM)

KA
KA
(THOK)
GATA
(CRASH)
KEEP YOUR BACK TO IT AND STAY QUIET.
STAY CLOSE TO THE WALL.
WH- WHAT JUST HAPPENED!?

GA (CLACK)

ARE YOU A GOBLIN ?

SHA (GLOW)

TCH!

BA (LEAP)

GA
GA
GA
GYA
(KLANG)
BAN
(BAM)
HYU
(SHOO)

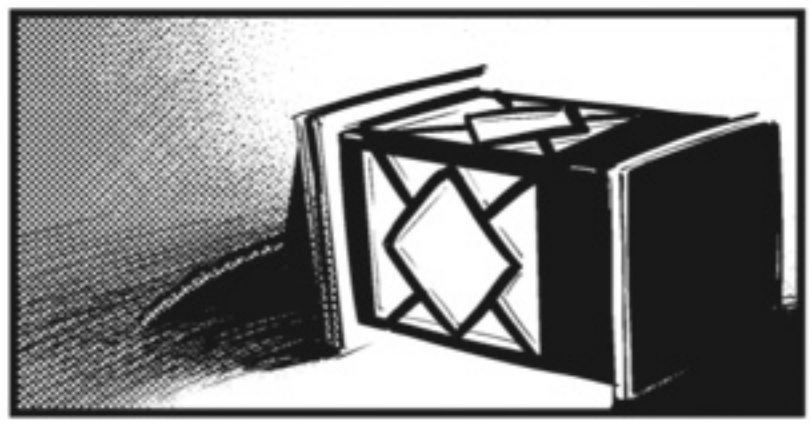
GYARI (SHING)

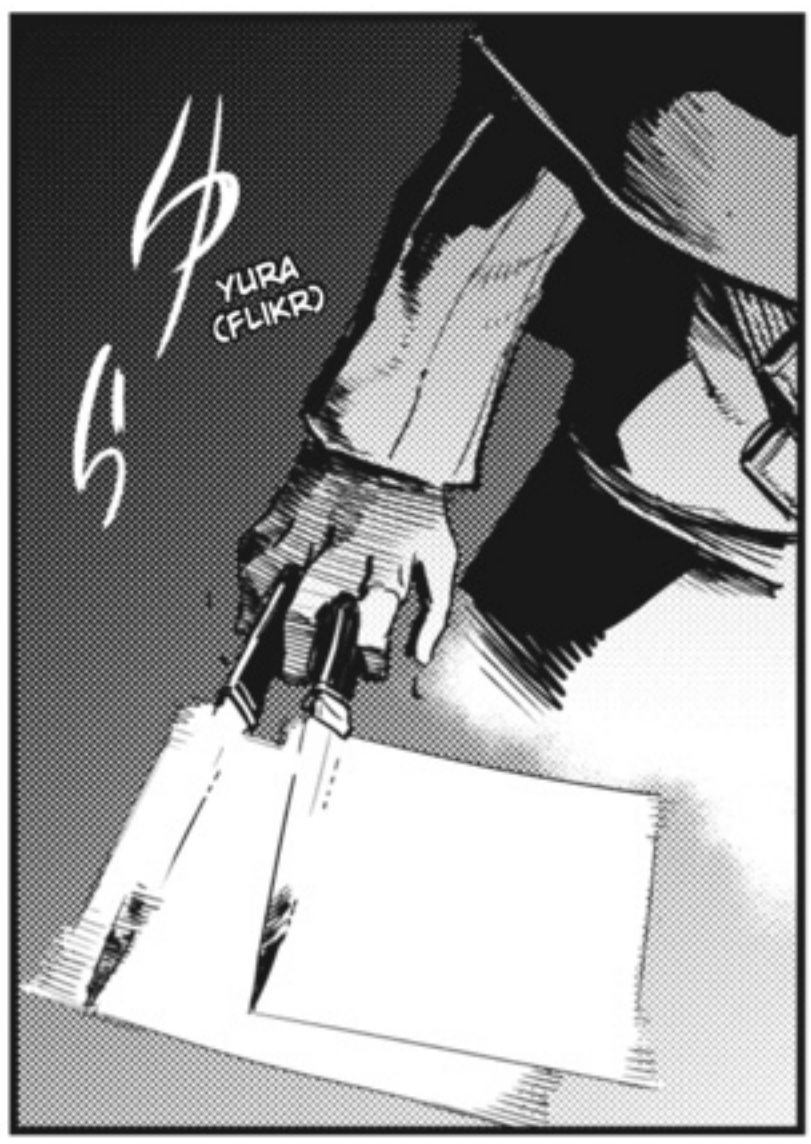
THIS IS NO GOBLIN.

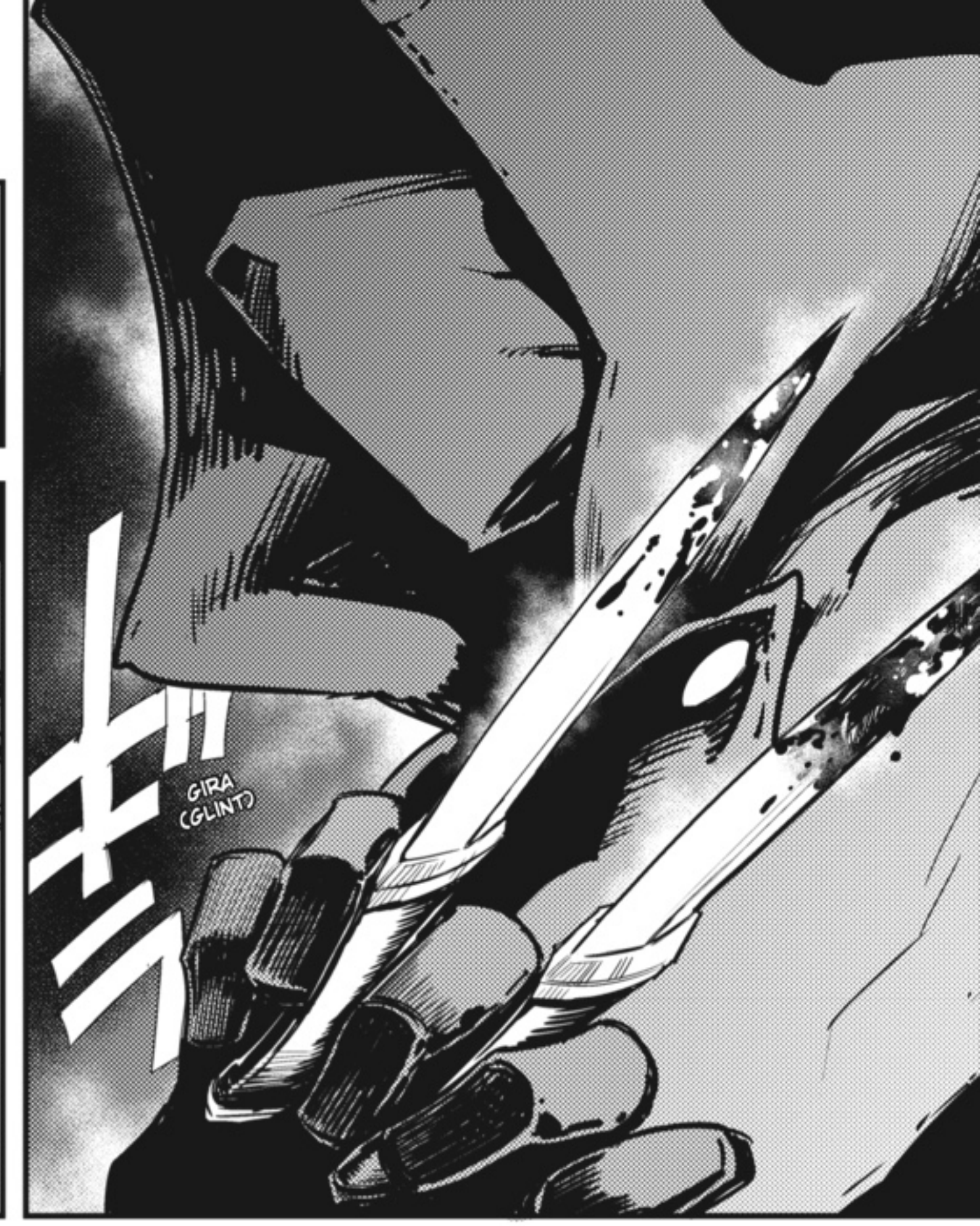
BUT THE LEVEL OF SKILL...

THERE IS NO PROBLEM.

G- GOBLIN SLAYER...?




ゆら
YURA
(FLIKR)


ギラ
GIRA
(GLINT)

GA (FWA)

GAN (TANG)

IF HE'S USING POISONED DAGGERS...

KI (SHANG)

...HE DOESN'T NEED TO AIM FOR A VITAL SPOT.

TO (TOK)

DO (THUNP)

SO THAT WAS HIS PLAN ALL ALONG...

IT CAN'T BE...

G...

GOBLIN ...

... SLAYER ...?

GO (BAM)

GA (KICK)

GA

GA

GA

GA

SPENDS ALL HIS TIME HUNTING EASY PREY!

AND HE GETS FREAKING SILVER FOR IT!

GETS A LITTLE LUCKY!

OH, YES IT CAN! YES! IT! CAN!!

YOU... YOU'RE GONNA SUFFER BEFORE YOU GO...

ST— ST—

STOP! YOU HAVE TO STOP!

...AND THEN THERE'S THE WOMEN HANGING OFF HIM.

A GUY GETS JEALOUS, YOU KNOW?

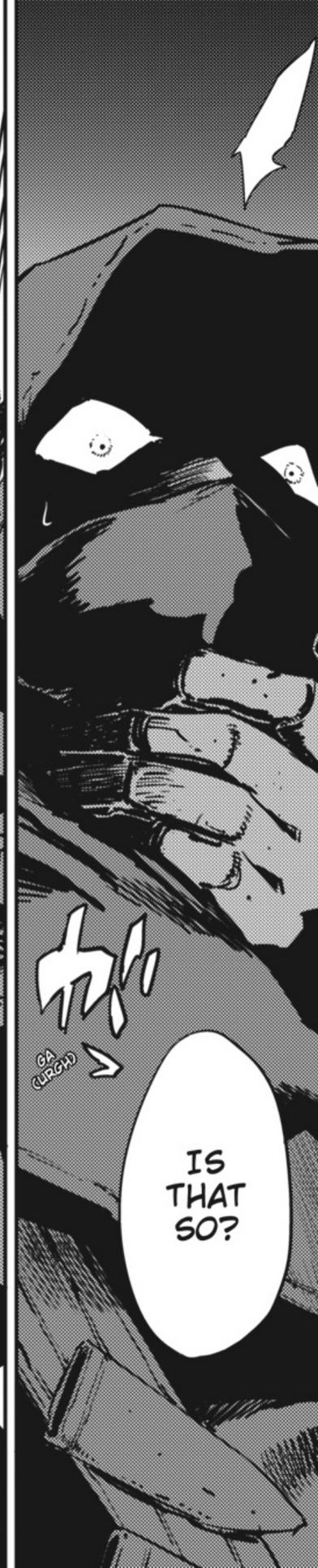
HE'S EVEN ALL BUDDY-BUDDY WITH THE GUILD STAFF! IF THAT AIN'T CROOKED, WHAT IS!?

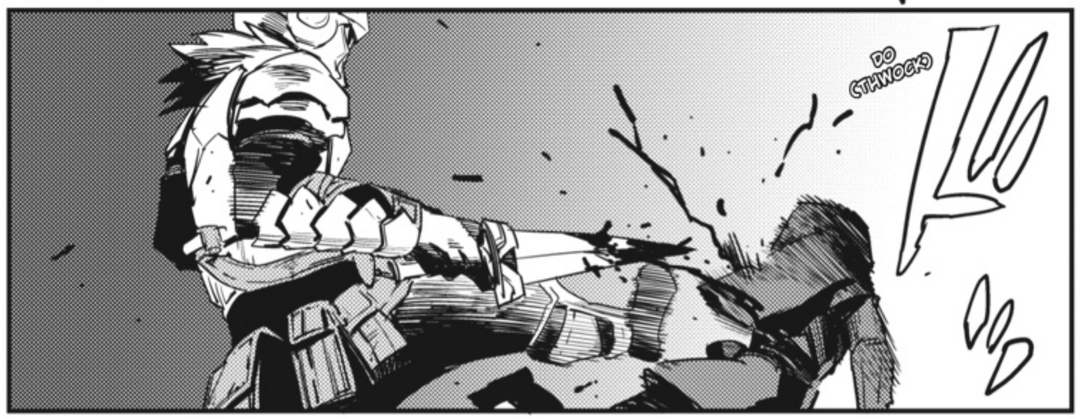
GURUN (ROLL)

BIKU
BIKU (TWITCH)

GH...
WHO...

DOZU (SHOK)


GA (URGH)
IS THAT SO?


DO (THWOCK)

AS IF DARTS COULD PIERCE IT.

I WEAR CHAIN MAIL UNDER MY ARMOR.
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!? ARE YOU HURT!?

YES.
GOBLIN ...
... SLAYER ?

I WAS SURE YOU WERE DEAD...!

I THOUGHT ...

I...

HE WAS TOO QUICK.

TO WIN, I NEEDED THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.

HRM...

...DON'T DO IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

... THEN ...

IF YOU HAVE TO APOLO-GIZE FOR SOME-THING...

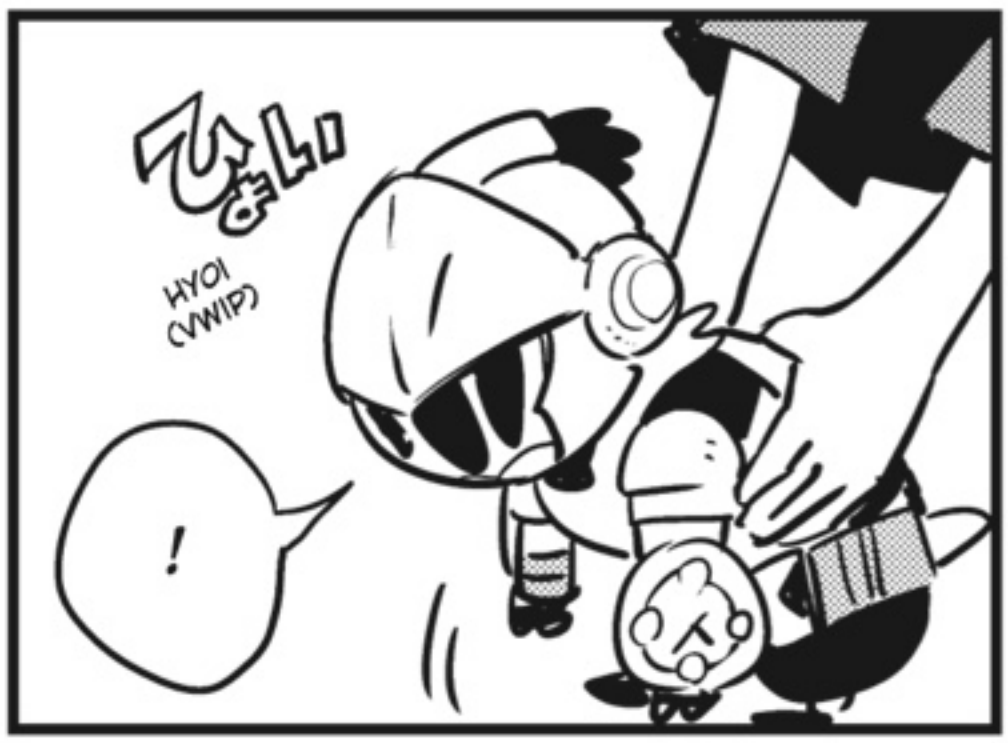
I'M SORRY.

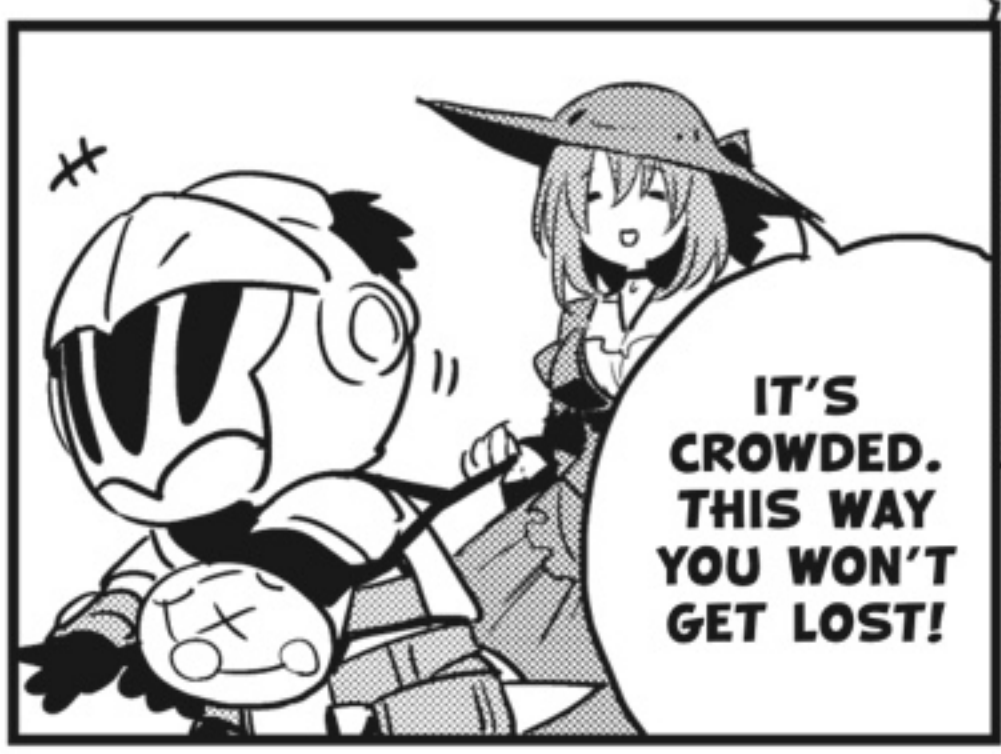
... I WILL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

GOBLIN SLAYER 7 THE END

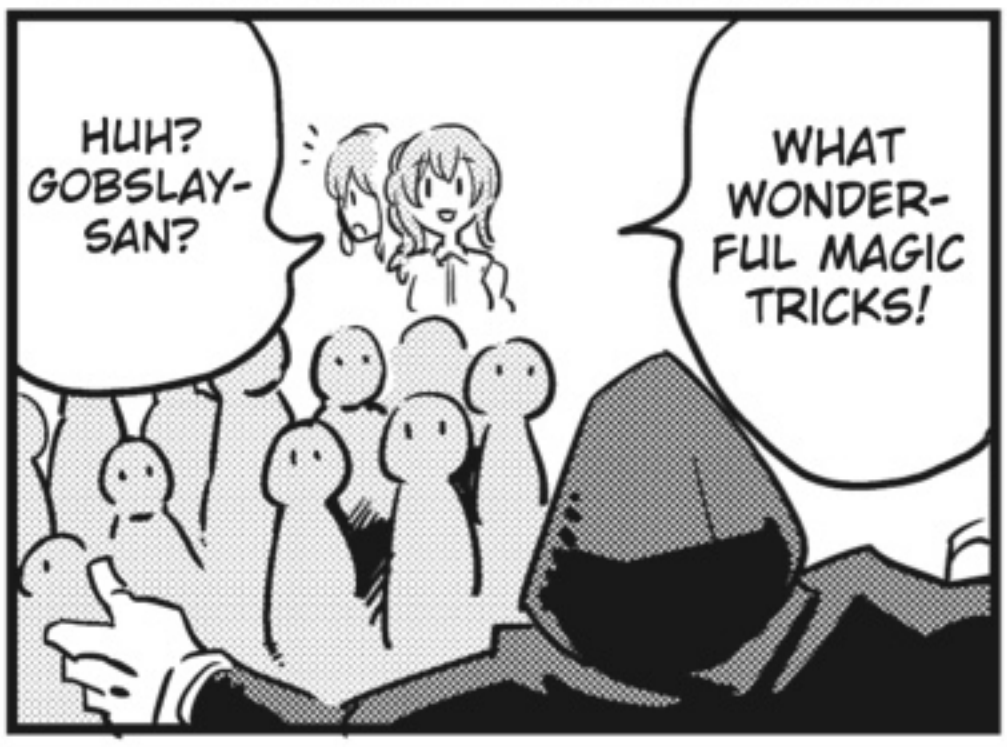
GOBSLAY-SAN

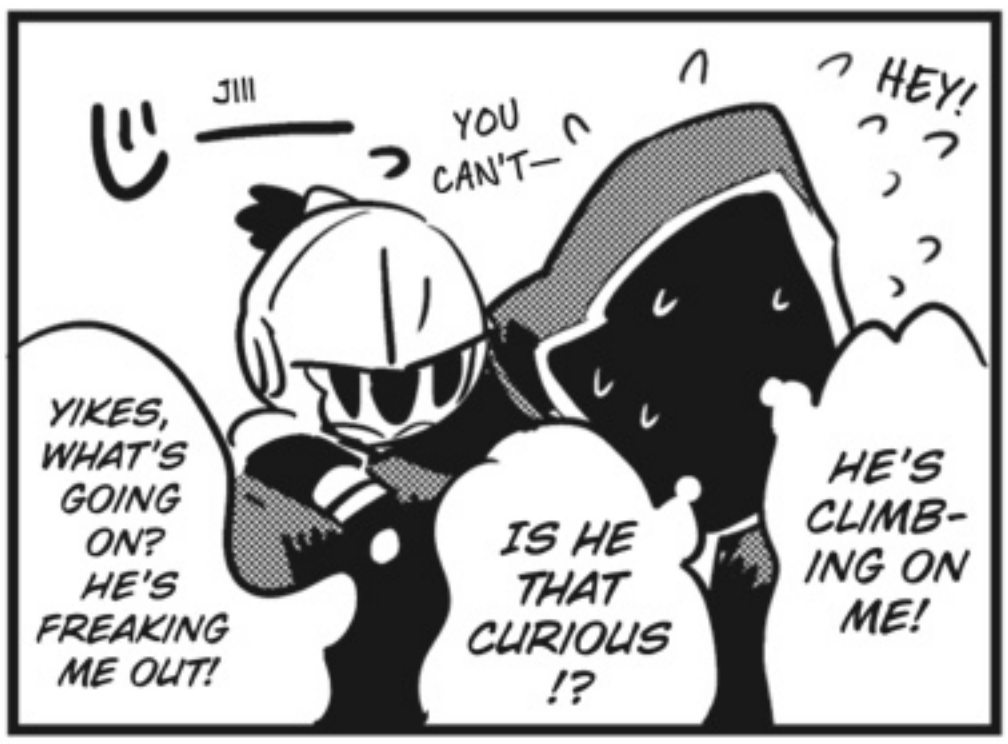
STAY TOGETHER





SOMETHING INTERESTING

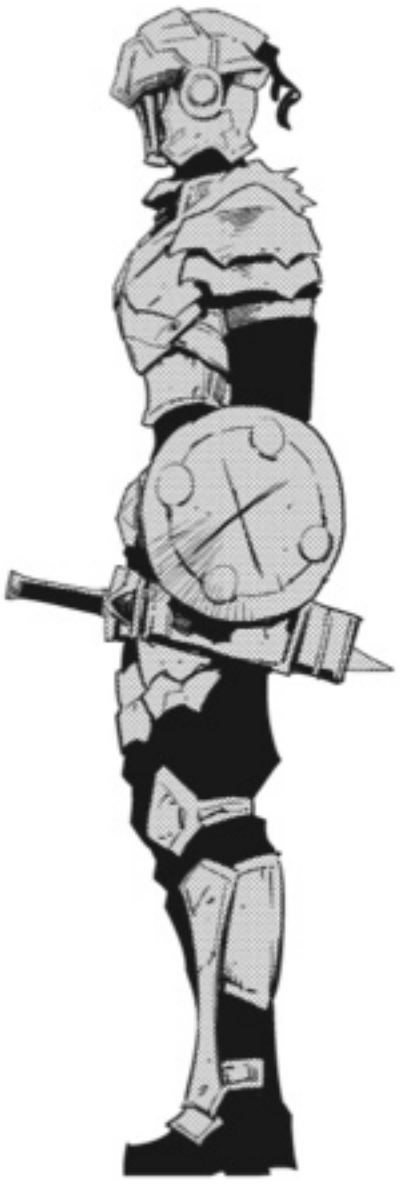




GOOD STUFF

Turn to the back of the book for a short story by Kumo Kagyu!

GOBLIN SLAYER



with work, so much so that she sometimes went through her days in a haze. She slowly stopped thinking about her prince, like any reasonable adult.

Fateful encounters? There were no such things. No dramatic meetings, no fanciful love stories.

Maybe love was more like something that grew slowly, day by day, all the little things piling up, until it was suddenly just *there* before you even realized it.

That, at least—though she was embarrassed to admit it—described her feelings for *him*.

The two of them turned back to small talk after that. People rushed around, busy preparing for the festival. The town bustled. The sky was blue, but soon it would be evening. The two of them were as busy as anyone else, yet for some reason, time seemed to flow immensely slowly for them. Somehow that made Guild Girl very happy. It was so relaxing, and it made everything seem so amusing that she naturally started to laugh.

Cow Girl, of course, looked at her blankly, but then Guild Girl's merriment caught, and she started to giggle too.

§

When she was young, she often dreamed about what her life might have been like if she had been born into a different family. It wasn't that she was a difficult child or that she had a bad relationship with her parents. But she had felt the wish to become an adventurer—to go out and see the world.

She didn't want to be the princess captured by the dragon. She would rather be a knight errant fighting by the hero's side. Of course, she still had that soft spot for (again, metaphorical) princes on white horses. She believed that if she left her household, she would have just such a dramatic encounter and her story would finally begin.

Reality, of course, had other plans: She was swamped

as they walked down the street. In the end, they just traded some inconsequential comments on the upcoming festival, and that was all.

They went to a nearby stall to get some *Mettbrötchen*, raw pork on bread, then sat on a bench together and dug in. The rich savor of the meat and the aromatic spices filled their mouths, salving the troubles of their hearts, at least a little.

Guild Girl couldn't keep herself from closing her eyes to enjoy the taste, then licking the last bits of meat from her fingers. Suddenly, she felt a gaze on her. She glanced over and found Cow Girl staring at her with wide eyes, her own bread still in her hand.

"S-something wrong?"

"Oh no!" Cow Girl said, waving her hands wildly. "You're a...you know, a bureaucrat, right? And a noble?"

"I'm a little embarrassed to admit it right now, but... well, what about it?"

"I guess I just saw you and thought, *So even noble girls enjoy eating this, huh?*"

Guild Girl couldn't help smiling at that. "We really aren't all that special."

"Maybe, but—every girl dreams of it, you know?" Cow Girl insisted. "They all wish they could have blue blood."

"Me, I..." Guild Girl thought a moment, then smiled. "...I'm starting to wish I could be a simple farm girl sometimes."

"You are?"

"Uh-huh."

§

"Oh!"

"Hey!"

That choice proved to be the occasion for a completely unexpected meeting.

She left the Guild via the back door, passing through a large backyard used as a carriage stop, and was just heading toward the front of the building when they ran into each other.

Guild Girl found herself face-to-face with the girl from the farm, apparently here on business and looking rather surprised. Only for a moment, though; she quickly broke into a smile and greeted Guild Girl: "Hey, there! Uh, are you taking lunch?"

"Yes. It was getting a little late." Guild Girl was confident she hadn't let her own smile slip—well, fairly confident. As a member of the nobility, she had been well schooled in not letting her emotions show. Though she wasn't quite sure how well the training had taken, and she wasn't quite sure whether that was a good thing or not, either.

"Ah-ha-ha, me too." The way Cow Girl laughed so easily, so naturally—Guild Girl couldn't deny a flash of jealousy. She hated the way she was constantly analyzing other people's thinking, gauging the opportunities they presented.

That was why, when the two of them decided to eat together, she found herself at a loss for what to talk about

For many people in the surrounding areas, a chance to leave their village was close to once in a lifetime. That was all the more reason to go when there was something interesting to see in town, rather than just to drop off a quest.

But explanations aside, what it meant for the staff of the Adventurers Guild was more work. Accept the quest, calculate the reward, store it in the safe, make change if necessary, record it all in the appropriate registers... All this on top of administrative duties and other daily chores, and it became even more pressing if you were planning to take off the day of the festival.

"But this ought to help...a bit, at least."

No sooner had she spoken than she realized she was hungry. She put her hands over her stomach (hoping to forestall any unladylike gurgling) and took a quick look around. Her colleague, sitting in the chair next to hers, gave her a slight grin. "It's fine, go grab a bite. You haven't taken your lunch break yet, have you?"

"Th-thanks a lot. Sorry..."

Guild Girl's friend waved away her apology—what might her own plans for the festival be? Guild Girl had a sneaking suspicion that nosing around in that question might get her teased somehow.

Better leave well enough alone.

She decided to accept the opening her friend had generously made for her and slipped out of the Guild.

day by day, all the little things piling up, until it was suddenly just *there* before you even realized it.

That, at least—though she was embarrassed to admit it—described her feelings for *him*.

§

"Hmm... Hrmm..." Guild Girl gave a great stretch, barely stopping to put her quill in its holder. She leaned forward, working the stiffness out of her joints and bones. It felt great.

After noon, not many adventurers were to be seen in the Guild, and the place felt all but abandoned. The light and heat that came in through the window made her feel sluggishly warm, and she couldn't help herself from letting out a yawn. She covered her mouth with her hand to hide it, then wiped away the tears that had gathered at the corners of her eyes.

The festival's soon... That's part of it, but...

She was glad there hadn't been more adventurers than she had expected. With so few jobs that could be completed in just a day or two, not many people were keen to go on adventures. On the other hand, the backlog of actual quests was greater than ever. Even if the requests weren't all that urgent, the clients had plenty of opportunity to lodge them since they had gotten dressed up and come in from the countryside to take in the festival.

Interlude:

Of Them Meeting to Talk Together – by Kumo Kagyu

When she was little, she had thought a prince on a white horse would come for her one day.

Saying something like that out loud would have turned her into a laughingstock, but in any case, the white horse was more like a metaphor. Say one day she discovered she had a spectacular destiny or was caught up in a romance. Maybe the highborn son of some strange land would fall for her at first sight, or perhaps she'd run into the illegitimate child of some king somewhere...at a ball, for example.

Maybe she would be kidnapped by a dragon, right out of the blue, and then fall for her rescuer—that sort of thing happened all the time, right?

She fully believed that just such a wonderful thing could happen to her, no doubt when she least expected it. She was convinced, with inexplicable confidence, that someday, somehow, she would find a love worthy of a heroine in a story!

But come on, that sort of thing was impossible all along.

You understand that once you grow up; you don't even have to think about it. Dramatic meetings like that or wild love stories—they just don't happen.

Maybe love was more like something that grew slowly,

GOBLIN SLAYER 7

Original Story: Kumo Kagyu
Art: Kousuke Kurose
Character Design: Noboru Kannatuki

Translation: Kevin Steinbach ✣ Lettering: Bianca Pistillo

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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